

IRAN NEWS



World Powers Have Reached the Conclusion That the Islamic Movement Is Flourishing and Regard It as a Threat, Ayatollah Khamenei

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South African Muslim Vigilantes patrol Cape Town Searching for Drug Dealers. The Community Is Not Satisfied with the City's Anti-Drug Efforts

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China, Australia, France Join Outcry Against U.S. "Terror" Sanctions

BEIJING, CHINA (AFP) - China, Australia and France yesterday joined a growing international outcry over Washington's decision to punish foreign companies which trade with Iran and Libya.

The U.S. law provides for penalties against companies, foreign or American, which invest more than \$40 million a year in the oil or gas sectors in the two radical Middle East states, which Washington accuses of sponsoring international terrorism.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang said the law was "not consistent with international relations and will do no good to the settlement of the problem."

"Nobody should frequently resort to sanctions or pressures to resolve such problems," he said, while calling for a resolution "on the basis of mutual respect through dialogue and consultations."

The move, aimed at cutting off revenue from two of Washington's bitterest enemies, has triggered widespread criticism, much of it from U.S. allies.

In Paris, the government said it would take immediate counter-measures if French firms were affected.

A spokesman said France will prepare "mirror" legislation "in order to be ready if need be."

Britain, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, Norway, Pakistan,

Russia and Switzerland have also criticized the bill signed by President Bill Clinton on Monday, with several countries arguing it violates international trade agreements.

"Australia will do all it can to resist the U.S. moves," Trade and Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer said. He would not say if his government would back moves to take the issue to the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Australia was strongly opposed to terrorism, but believed threatened U.S. sanctions against innocent countries and companies were wrong in principle and could harm Australian trade, he said.

Australia will continue to lodge

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U.S. Frowns Upon Erbakan's Trip to Iran

WASHINGTON, U.S.A. (AFP) - The United States expressed disapproval Tuesday over a planned visit to Iran by Turkey's new Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan and warned Ankara would not benefit from ties with Tehran.

"We have made very clear to the Turkish government that Iran is a state that should be isolated," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

"We think that business-as-usual relations with Iran are not wise."

Erbakan, who became Turkey's head of government in June, flies to Tehran Saturday to meet with Iranian President Hojatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and discuss an agreement for Iranian natural gas supplies for Turkey.

But Ankara may face sanctions over the deal under provisions of the new Iran-Libya Sanctions Act.

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Hostility to Iran Caused by Her Growing Power, Leader

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, here yesterday praised the progress of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in the field of diplomacy.

In a meeting with the foreign-based Iranian diplomats, the Leader said the progress in performance of Iranian Foreign Ministry is based on the principle of independence and full commitment to Islamic principles.

The Leader said the diplomatic representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran are advocates of the lofty Islamic values.

He said Iranian diplomatic representatives are confronted with false news, unfounded allegations, threats and humiliation initiated by elements of the world arrogance and Zionism. However, they have to tolerate their bitter mission for the sake of the grace and mercy of the Almighty God, the Leader added.

Elsewhere in his speech, the revered Ayatollah pointed to the escalation of anti-Iran propaganda campaign of the world arrogance especially the U.S. and the Zionist regime and said such hostile and controversial propaganda would not work except to poison the world public opinion.

The Leader reiterated that the world arrogance led by the U.S. has followed a hostile policy towards the Islamic Republic of Iran because it is determined to fight Islam's flourishing power in the world, adding that according to substantive evidence, the arrogance's hostility to Iran is based on its fear of a growing opponent.

The Leader said the world powers, despite their differences with each other, have reached the conclusion that the Islamic movement is flourishing and regard it as a threat to their dominance over the world.

Rebels Appear in Control in Grozny

GROZNY, CHECHNYA (AFP) - Separatist rebels appeared to control most of the Chechen capital Grozny yesterday with Russian troops blocked in administrative buildings and the civilian and military airports.

A rebel commander, Khizir Khachukayev told AFP that his men were in control of all buildings surrounding the headquarters of the pro-Russian government.

"We control the situation in the center of the city," he said.

Yuri Pliginskii, an official with the pro-Russian Interior Ministry, admitted that Russian troops had

taken a pounding by the rebels, who on Tuesday launched their biggest offensive in five months on the capital.

Pliginskii told the Interfax news agency that the situation was "extremely complicated" and that the rebels had regrouped yesterday and attacked neighborhoods in central Grozny and the administrative area.

Fierce fighting was also reported in the town of Argun, east of Grozny, where Russian troops, who only control the military headquarters, were pounding rebel positions in an attempt to wrest

control of the city.

One source close to rebel leaders told the Itar-Tass news agency that the separatist offensive in Argun was led by Salman Raduyev, who recently turned up alive after being thought dead for months.

The source said some 600 rebels took part in the offensive to control administrative buildings in Argun and managed to shoot down two Russian helicopters.

The pro-Russian Chechen Leader Dzhokur Zavgayev told the Moscow Echo Radio that situation in Argun was "stable and perfectly normal."



GROZNY, CHECHNYA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION: A wounded Russian soldier is evacuated from Grozny August 6 as hundreds of Chechen rebels struck at the heart of Russian forces with fierce and coordinate attacks.

(AFP Photo)

Assad Rules out Early Resumption of Peace Talks with Israel

ALEXANDRIA, EGYPT (AFP) - Syrian President Hafez al-Assad yesterday turned down an Israeli offer for an immediate resumption of negotiations, charging the Jewish state was not committed to peace.

"We heard several days ago that Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sent an appeal to Syria via the United States to resume negotiations, but without outlining a framework that would give peace a chance," Assad said.

"Reading this proposal, we do not feel that those who drew it up are committed to peace," the Syrian leader told a press conference in Egypt's Mediterranean city of Alexandria.

But he said Syria was still committed to the Middle East peace process and the principles on which it was launched at the Madrid Conference in October 1991.

in a reference to the land-for-peace principle which Netanyahu opposes.

Assad was speaking after three hours of talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

Netanyahu appealed to Syria on Monday to resume immediate peace talks on "all outstanding issues" and revealed he had made an offer to Damascus through Washington.

The right-wing Israeli leader has also floated a "Lebanon-first" option whereby Israel and Syria would break the six-month deadlock in their talks by reaching a settlement in Lebanon, where both countries have troops.

But Assad insisted that talks must concern "Lebanon and Syria first, at the same time and as part of the same process."

"We are ready to resume nego-

tiations on the basis of the Madrid Conference, but we are in no hurry to reach a settlement which does not respond to our idea of peace," the Syrian leader said.

Mubarak, the first Arab leader

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CONDOLENCES

Mr. Mehdi Sheikh Kazemi
The sad news of the demise of your loved one was received with heartfelt sorrow. We wish to extend our sincere condolences to you and the other members of the bereaved family and pray that the soul of your loved one may rest in Divine grace.
IRAN NEWS management and staff

Condolences to the Tarapoor Family

It saddened us all to hear of the passing away Monday of one of our best family friends, Mr. Yazdi Tarapoor.
We express our sincere condolences to his wife, Mrs. Veera, daughters Atashin and Adria, and brother, Fercydoun.
We pray to the Almighty God that the soul of our very dear Yazdi may rest in Divine peace. We also pray to God to bestow patience on his family members and friends.
Mr. & Mrs. IRFAN PARVIZ

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EDITORIAL

Banking Operations Call for Precise Survey

The Majlis (Parliament) approved the law of Islamic banking in Shahrivar 1362 (August-September 1983) allowing such banking operations to be launched.

Since then the strengths and weaknesses of this type of banking and enforcement of its regulations have been debated by economists, bankers, jurists and academicians, and have been the subject of several seminars.

Islamic banking is fledgling and novel. For years on end, the Iranian banking system was based on usury. Consequently, these two considerations should be in mind for a meticulous and logical survey of the Iranian banking system.

The majority of economy experts unanimously approve of interest-free banking but call for precise elaboration of this law to increase its efficiency and expedite this system's development. They opt for specialized meetings with the participation of university professors, jurists, and bank officials to resolve the shortcomings of this law.

On the other hand, many other economy specialists hold that this law is comprehensive enough and that any shortcomings that might appear are due to improper enforcement of the law which is not known fully by the officials and the people. They demand swift acquaintance of the enforcers with this law.

Undoubtedly, both groups are in agreement over the necessity behind cancelling usury in banking operations. But, unfortunately, some people consider critical outlooks toward this law as a violation of the law itself. This is while specialized criticism will surely boost the banking system's efficiency. Therefore, in the first place, we should set aside prejudice toward the law and carefully study its letter and spirit.

In the years after this law was approved, the peoples' deposits at the banks registered an almost fourfold growth, indicating the daily increasing confidence of the people in the banking system. But as yet the banking system has not been able to favorably bar the liquidity growth and inflation existing in the community. There is still a long way to go to reach the ideal state.

To have a competent banking system, we should primarily eliminate executive problems and then resort to ways and means experienced by other countries, provided that they do not clash with our beliefs. For instance, credit cards are in vogue in most countries worldwide, but they are not used in Iran. Under the present conditions, the use of credit cards seems to be a positive step. In addition, the banking system should be completely modernized.

In short, we should impartially assess the weaknesses and strengths through specialized and jurisprudential discussions.

9 Villages Recognized as Towns

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - According to Interior Ministry's proposal and ratification by the Cabinet the following 9 villages were recognized as towns.

Ejeh and Mohammad-Abad in suburban area of Isfahan, Damanch in suburban area of

Faridan, Dehej in suburban area of Babak, Mohammad-Abad in suburban area of Jiroft, Hanna in suburban area of Samiran, Manoujan in suburban area of Kahnuj, Bagh-e-Abrisham in suburban area of Falavarjan, Ab-Sard, Mardanak and Tasskin in suburban area of Damavand.

Yazdi Stresses the Strength of New Islamic Law

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - The Islamic government of Iran has drawn a red line over which nobody, even the Supreme Jurisprudent, is permitted to trespass. Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, head of the Judiciary, said yesterday.

Yazdi was addressing a conference of heads of Iran's diplomatic missions abroad, held at the Foreign Ministry here.

"Should the Supreme Leader of the Revolution trespass the principles set by the Islamic law, he will weaken these principles," Yazdi said, adding that the Supreme Jurisprudent (Vali-e-Faqih) had been chosen to enforce Islamic codes.

Speaking of the Islamic penal laws approved recently, Yazdi emphasized the need for government officials to become familiar with them so that they could answer the allegations of foreign media.

He reiterated that many religious minorities and groups were living in Iran without restrictions or limitations, but that should they attempt to conspire against the territorial integrity of the nation or the system, they would be stopped.

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told the gathering that those nations whose ambassadors were thoroughly conversant with their duties and discharged them efficiently were much more successful in their diplomacy.

He said the conditions in the world were rapidly changing and the Foreign Ministry always tried to adapt itself to developments and even to precede events. It was therefore an essential duty of a diplomat to anticipate political developments.

"Iran plays an effective role in regional and international developments, and an example of this potent activity is our diplomacy in Afghanistan and the events that are happening north of that country," Velayati said.

Emphasizing the significance of the media in the success of diplomacy, the foreign minister said: "Nowadays the news media serves as the strong arm of our open diplomacy and in the coming days they have a crucial role to play to confront with the offensive launched against the Islamic Republic by the U.S.," Velayati stated.

The conference will continue for two weeks in both Tehran and Mashhad. It was officially opened after the diplomats visited the Supreme Leader of the Revolution on Tuesday.

57 specialized groups are discussing current diplomacy.

U.S., Main Backer of Global Terrorism



NATEQ-NOURI

IRAN NEWS POLITICAL DESK

TEHRAN - Majlis Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri said in Tabriz yesterday that the United States is the main backer of global terrorism and Israel, the founder of world terrorism.

The Majlis Speaker addressed thousands of people who had gathered at Tabriz's Takhti Stadium. He said the recent U.S. decision for tougher measures to isolate Iran originate from weakness and ignorance because such conspiracies are doomed to failure.

Hojjatolislam Nateq-Nouri said Iran is ready to cooperate with international forums to combat terrorism and would apply as the number one member should the United Nations form a special anti-terrorism commission.

He arrived in Tabriz yesterday on the first leg of his visit to the province. He was warmly welcomed with revolutionary slogans, IRNA reported.



PHOTO BY SATNAM

Iran Determined to Quell Insurgence, Counter Infiltrations

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Interior Minister and Security Council Head, Ali Mohammad Besharati, here on Tuesday cautioned the heads of the outlawed Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) to stop plots against regional Kurds.

He headed them not to become trapped by the Islamic Revolution's enemies.

Reviewing, in a meeting, the security condition of the country's western part, he underlined that the Islamic Republic will quell any plot and counter any incursion into its territory, IRNA reported.

The recent operation in curbing the PKD's political and military activities in the region by the Islamic Republic's Armed Forces were also reviewed during the meeting.

The interior minister stated that the government's investments, specifically those in the Iran's western province, Kurdistan have been successful.

He hoped that security would prevail in the province to bring about peace and stability to the region's people.

He thanked the Kurds for their cooperation in bringing about peace, stability and security as well as for their valued efforts in the reconstruction of the country.

Iran's U.N. Mission Slams USA Today

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Iran's mission to the United Nations Tuesday released an official communique blasting U.S. allegations of Iran's involvement in terrorism, IRNA reported from New York.

"USA Today's allegation about the existence of terrorist camps in Iran echoes the disinformation campaign by Israeli secret service and the desperate attempts by an Iranian terrorist organization to Iraq," (Terrorist camps seen in Iran," news, Friday).

Mohammad Hossein Nosrati, Iran's press secretary at the U.N., presented the release, which said this new round of accusations, of which USA Today's article is but one, resembled the havoc raised against Iran after the bombing in Argentina, and would dissipate shortly.

And like the Argentine incident, the real culprits would likely be found, it added.

The communique said the victimization of Iran by irresponsible and politically motivated propaganda would probably continue while Iran refused to surrender to American pressure.

The Islamic Republic of Iran rejected in the strongest possible terms the existence of any camp in Iran used for terrorist training, it said.

Iran's strength lay not in training terrorists in Iran, or supporting international terrorism, but in an unwavering commitment to re-

jecting both hegemony and hegemonization, the release said.

This principle was enshrined in "the egalitarian tenets of Islam," it said: There is strength in this commitment and it could not be defeated by misinformation or threats.

33,000 Unauthorized Weapons Delivered to Law Enforcement Centers

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - A total of 33,000 unauthorized weapons have been delivered to the law enforcement centers in the country before the deadline set by the Leader of the Revolution has expired, a senior government officer said here yesterday.

Gholamhossein Bolandian, deputy minister of interior for security affairs, said 50 percent of the weapons were military weapons and the rest were unauthorized hunting guns.

He said the law permits every citizen to possess 3 hunting guns upon receipt of license.

Bolandian, who was speaking to the press, said the public had 5 days respite to benefit from the general amnesty announced by the Supreme Leader and to hand

over their unauthorized weapons and ammunitions to law enforcement departments in the country.

He said as of August 12 the disciplinary forces will collect unauthorized weapons from people and those who are found to own weapons will be held criminal.

The penalty for holding unauthorized military weapons is between 3 to 10 years jail.

Those who own unauthorized hunting guns will be imprisoned between three months to three years according to the case and their ownership will be cancelled.

Bolandian said the law covered all the masses of the community and nobody can hold unauthorized weapons under the guise of being ignorant of the law or having served the Revolution in sensitive posts.

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SHAMSHAD AHMAD



RAFSANJANI

Rafsanjani Lauds Services of Shamsad Ahmad

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK
TEHRAN - President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani yesterday lauded the services of a seasoned Pakistani diplomat, saying that "It was during Mr. Shamsad Ahmad's tenure that a three-member organization transformed into one of the largest regional organizations of the world."

Rafsanjani appreciated the efforts of Shamsad Ahmad and said, "The secretary-general did his best for laying down solid a foundation for regional cooperation."

"I hope that ECO will continue to flourish on the basis of the good work already done by Mr. Shamsad Ahmad," the Iranian President said.

Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Secretary-General Shamsad Ahmad yesterday called on President Rafsanjani at the end of his tenure as the head of 10-Member Organization.

Rafsanjani was referring to the three-member Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD) of which Iran along with Pakistan and Turkey were the founding members.

It was during the tenure of Shamsad Ahmad that the RCD was renamed ECO and seven new members including Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan joined the organization in 1992.

High-Ranking Turkish Delegation Arrives in Iran

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - A Turkish top-brass military and security delegation headed by Major General Loybash, arrived in the border city of Sarv (Urmia) yesterday.

The delegation was welcomed by Commander of the Disciplinary Forces of West Azarbaijan Rastegarpanah, the Public Relations Department of the Interior Ministry said.

The joint Irano-Turkish team of military and security experts

Court Issues Verdict for Akhbar Daily

IRAN NEWS NATIONAL DESK

TEHRAN - Managing Director of the Akhbar Daily Ahmad Safaeefar has been sentenced to payment of 5 million rials fine and six months deposit from his post.

Speaking at a press conference, head of the Special Branch of Tehran Province's Administration of Justice Ramezan Ranjbar said the head of Branch 34 of Tehran's General Court condemned Safaeefar on the charges of disseminating falsehood, disturbing the public opinion, and promoting corruption and licentiousness.

The verdict was issued on the basis of Articles 103 and 141 of the Islamic Penal Code approved in 1983, Paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the Press Law approved in 1985, and Articles 17 and 19 of the Islamic Penal Code, he added.

As he has not had previous court cases, Safaeefar's punishment has been eased down, he noted.

The Press Court convened August 5, 1996. The plaintiffs - including the Physical Education Organization, the Ministry of Roads and Transportation, the Ni-roo sports weekly, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, the Yazd Governor General's Office, the Tehran Province Administration of Justice - set forth their litigations against Akhbar.

The jury, after listening to Safaeefar's defense, convicted him of disseminating falsehood, disturbing the public opinion, and promoting corruption and licentiousness.

Akhbar was accused of promoting corruption and licentiousness for publishing a report about a house in Tehran which served as a brothel. In this report, Akhbar had given the whereabouts of the house and some names which Safaeefar said were pseudonyms.

Ranjbar did not comment on the Akhbar's distortion of the eminent leadership's statement and noted that he was acquitted of other charges.

Ranjbar added, "Managing Director of the Kiyani Monthly Reza Kaffash Tehrani has also been summoned to the court due to a complaint lodged against him by Hamed Algar."

Algar, an American researcher on Islam and Iran, has lodged a complaint against Kiyani for forging his signature.

Some journalists and experts have expressed amazement over the court verdict which condemned Safaeefar to pay 5 million rials as fine.

LET'S MEMORIZE THE QURAN
SURA 64, COMMON LOSS (AL-TAGHAABUN)
In the Name of God
The Beneficent, the Merciful
4. Whatever is there in the Skies,
And everything on Earth, he knows;
And knows He all that you disguise,
And all that you disclose;
Indeed what lies in depths of hearts,
- God always knows.
*The 54th part of the Holy Quran is obtainable in exquisite book-form from: RASA Publication Tel. 883 4844-5 (F.N.)

PRAYER TIMES

Noon (Zohr)	13:10
Evening (Maghreb)	20:23
Tomorrow's Dawn (Fajr)	04:33
Tomorrow's Sunrise	06:18

TÊTE-A-TÊTE

The New Bill!

"Sir, now that practically all American allies have failed to bow to commands emanating from the White House, could Mr. Clinton still go about calling himself 'the leader of the free world'?"

"Friend of mine from Italy says that there they have already granted him the title: Emperor Billus Clintonus Zionisticus Bankruptus."

"Would you please translate that into simple, respectable, Oxbridge English, sir?"

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USA Today

Authorized Weapons to Law Enforcement Centers

USE IN IRAN NEWS

Law & Regulations Concerning the Attraction and Protection of Foreign Investments in Iran

PART V

Article 15. Firms, the central offices of which are outside of Iran, shall pay registration fees only in proportion to the capital transferred to Iran.

Article 16. In cases where for specific work certain machinery is imported into Iran without transfer of foreign exchange, and is not registered as part of capital, its owner has the right to export from Iran the same machinery and tools upon the termination of the said work.

Article 17. For the participation of the Undersecretary of National Economy in the Supervisory Board, subject to the discretion of the Board's Chairman (Governor of Bank Melli Iran), when the subject of proposal is related to industrial affairs, the Technical Undersecretary of Industries & Mines, and when the subject is related to mining affairs the Mining Undersecretary of the Industries and Mines, and when it is related to commercial and banking affairs the Undersecretary of Commerce, shall participate.

Article 18. Functions assigned to the Supervisory Board in the Law concerning the Attraction and Protection of Foreign Investments are to be regarded as part of the main functions of the members of the said Board. The personnel budget of the Secretariat of the Supervisory Board and fees payable to experts shall be made available by Bank Melli Iran.

The above Regulations comprised 18 Articles and 4 Notes, which, subsequent to the approval of the relevant Committee, has been approved by the Committee on Commerce of the Majlis, at its sitting on Mehr 17, 1345, is enforceable by virtue of the Law concerning the Attraction and Protection of Foreign Investments.

Article 19. According to Article 2 of the Law concerning the Attraction and Protection of Foreign Investments in Iran, a Supervisory Board was set up in Bank Melli Iran, under the chairmanship of its Governor. But later on, Article 85 section 4 of the Monetary and Banking Law of Iran ratified on Khordad 7, 1339 provided that a Supervisory Board for the Attraction and Protection of Foreign Investments, subject of Article 2 of the Act of Azar 7, 1334 (November 28, 1995), concerning the Attraction and Protection of Foreign Investments be constituted in Bank Markazi Iran (Central Bank of Iran) under the chairmanship of the Governor of the Bank.

In Bahman 1349 (February 1972) the Law transferring the Center for the Attraction and Protection of Foreign Investments to the Ministry of Economy was ratified. According to the aforementioned Law, a Supervisory Board for the attractions and Protection of Foreign Investments was set up under the chairmanship of the Minister of Economy or his Deputy.

According to Article 5 of the Law on Formation of Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance dated Tir 1353, the title of the Center for the Attraction and Protection of Foreign Investments was changed to "Organization for Investment, Economic and Technical Assistance of Iran". A Supervisory Board for the Attraction and Protection of Foreign Investments was set up under the chairmanship of the Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance or his Deputy.

(Concluded)

EU Warns U.S. Over Threatening Oil Supplies

LONDON, BRITAIN (IRNA) - The European Commission has stepped up its war of words with the U.S. over its attempts to impose new sanctions against Iran and Libya by warning it had potentially serious implications for the security of energy supplies.

The European Union already has retaliatory measures drawn up in the form of draft "blocking" legislation forbidding firms from complying with U.S. extra-territorial law, which the commission is confident will be approved at the next foreign ministers meeting.

EU Trade Commissioner, Sir Leon Brittan, is also planning to challenge U.S. aspirations of telling countries with whom they are allowed to trade with at the World Trade Organization next month.

In its latest protest against the U.S. trying to criminalize firms for investing in Iran and Libya's oil industries, the commission warned Tuesday that 20 percent of the EU oil imports come from the two countries and could hit energy supplies.

Its warning came as Jane's Intelligence Review reported that Iran's naval strength increased its capability of shutting off a fifth of the world's oil supplies coming from the Persian Gulf, but suggested it had little reason to do so at present.

The new U.S. legislation signed by President Clinton on Monday potentially affects many European firms investing in Iran and Libya, including TOTAL and ELF of France, Austria's OMV, REPSOL of Spain, PETROFINA of Belgium, AGIP of Italy and Germany's VEB and WINTER-

SHALL.

Both the French and German governments have described the measures as illegal and are particularly concerned at the nature of the extra-territorial law setting a precedent for future sanctions legislation to curb EU trade.

One of the most angry denunciations was reported to have come from German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, who vowed to lead European resistance.

He said what was going on in Washington had to be seen as part of Clinton's campaign, but it was a "measure that Europeans cannot accept."

Meanwhile, Greek news agency ANA reported yesterday European Energy Commissioner Christos Papoutsis expressed "deep concern" over U.S. legislation.

"I should like to express my deep concern over the D'Amato Law."

When it comes into force, it will create major problems for the European oil industry," said Papoutsis, who is a Greek.

"According to the information we have, business transactions in oil are not included in the list of sanctions and so there will not be any direct consequences on trade."

Papoutsis pointed out that the EU imported 80 percent of its crude oil, of which 20 percent from Libya and Iran, while oil imports covered only 50 percent of U.S. requirements, supplied mainly by Venezuela, Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Norway.

"We must not forget that the oil market is a world market."

IDRO Affiliated Companies Show a 10% Growth

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK
TEHRAN - During the first quarter of the current Iranian year manufacturing companies affiliated to Industrial Development and Renovation Organization (IDRO) had a growth of 10 percent compared to the same period last year, a statement from IDRO said.

27,600 passenger vehicles (indicating 11 percent rise), 1,353 trucks (indicating 112 percent rise), 1,342 tractors (indicating 45 percent rise), 116 combines (indicating 36 percent rise), 25,000

SHAMSHAD:

ECO Needs New Regulations, Better Understanding

IRAN NEWS ECONOMIC DESK
TEHRAN - In a meeting between the outgoing Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Shamsad Ahmad Khan and Alinaqi Khamoushi, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines, grounds for mutual cooperation among ECO member states were explored.

Referring to the original structure of the Economic Cooperation Organization, Shamsad Ahmad said during his 4-year tenure as secretary general of ECO he had noted that some of the ECO's regulations were influenced by old regulations which need to be re-examined and replaced.

He said ECO which was originally found by Turkey, Iran and

axles (indicating 345 percent rise), 1,900 diesel engines (indicating 1,060 percent rise), 4,300 industrial and agricultural engines (indicating 198 percent rise), 1,944 tons of springs (indicating 59 percent rise) and 765 tons of vehicle radiators (indicating 20 percent rise) were produced during that period.

According to IDRO due to a boom in the industry and government support, the manufacturers of industrial machinery and equipment showed considerable growth in 1374 compared to year 1373.

Compared to 1373 (1994/95) in 1374 (1995/96) the growth of cast equipment was 9 percent, iron manufactured pieces 320 percent, boilers 85 percent, mineral equipment 118 percent, tanks 63 percent and hydraulic equipment was 51 percent.

IDRO affiliated companies have produced a total of 20.4 thousand tons of different metal equipment and installed 8,500 tons of equipment for different industries during this period, the statement added.

21b Rials Allocated to Transport Cooperatives

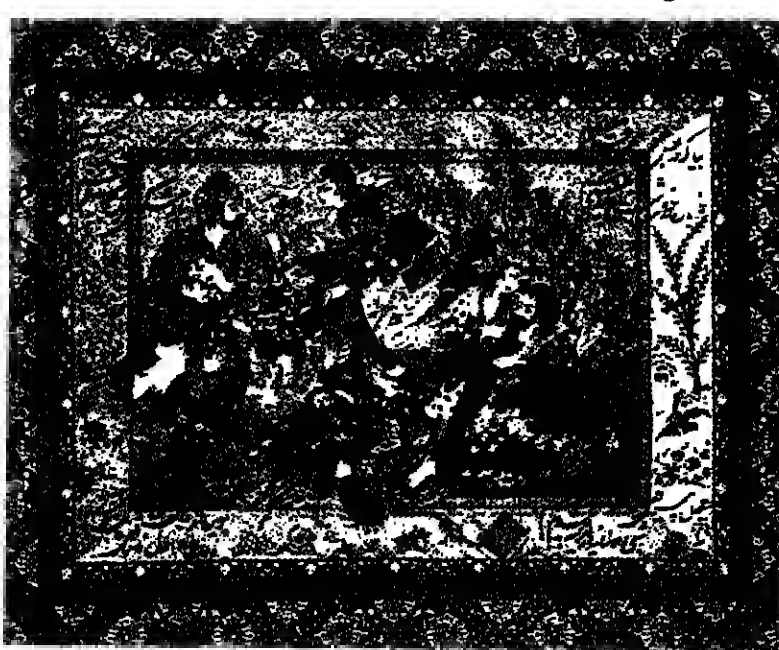
TEHRAN (IRNA) - Transport cooperatives in Iran were credited with some 21 billion rials last year (ended March 20), it was announced here on Tuesday.

According to the public relations department of the Ministry of Cooperatives of Iran, some 79 transport cooperatives were set up last year, 75 of which are operating in land and the other four in maritime transport.

According to the department, a total of 14 construction, development and supplementary projects on terminals of cooperative companies were launched by the Ministry of Cooperatives during the period.

Also, the number of the vehicles renovated or added to the fleet of the ministry rose to 14,586 last year.

49,000 sqm of Carpets Woven in Kurdistan Prov. Annually



SANANDAJ, KURDISTAN PROVINCE (IRNA) - A total of 49,000 square meters of carpets of various patterns are being woven in this western province annually.

Managing Director of the provincial Hand-woven Carpet Cooperatives Union Mohammad Reza Gholami said here Tuesday

that there were 19,622 local carpet weavers active under the supervision of the union.

Gholami added that some 4,625 billion rials have so far been invested in eight cooperatives in the province sponsored by the said union.

Construction Jihad Prepared Draft of Oil-Free Economic Plan

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Construction Jihad Ministry has prepared the draft of an "economy without oil" plan and is soon to hand it to the authoritative officials.

The plan has forecast implementation of giant projects, including those in the area of research, for a period of 25 years in order to attain an economy independent of oil.

Deputy Construction Jihad Minister for Education and Re-

search Mohammad-Taqi Amanpour said here Tuesday that under the plan, jobs would be created for about ten millions by the year 1400 (March 21, 2021-March 20, 2022), which is expected to gain a value-added of over \$50 billion.

Amanpour said that Iran was selected to host the 8th International Conference on Rain Water Catchment System in light of support by international organizations, including the Food and

Agriculture Organization (FAO) due to Iran's achievements in the area of research on redirection of flood waters into water reservoir and in light of winning a scientific rivalry and competition with the U.S.

He added that the conference, to be held here in May, could be the biggest global scientific event which Iran holds after triumph of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

The Iranian official said that af-

NIOC OFFICIAL: Talks with Foreign Companies Continue

TEHRAN (IRNA) - Preliminary talks with foreign companies on five off-shore oil projects and international tenders since last November, are still going on and the U.S. embargo has had no effect, a morning daily wrote yesterday, quoting Esmail Jalilian, an official at the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC).

The Persian daily 'Iran' also quoted Jalilian as summing up the activities of the French oil company, TOTAL, at 'A' and 'E' oil fields off the Iranian island of Sirri in the Persian Gulf.

In order to expand the project, the NIOC with participation of a Malaysian oil company has signed an agreement with TOTAL, he added.

The Sirri 'A' oil field will start pumping oil by January 1998 and Sirri 'E' oil field that by early 1999, Jalilian said, adding by the year 2000 both fields will reach the projected maximum output.

The agreement to expand the two Sirri oil fields was inked by TOTAL and NIOC last August and the projected daily production of both oil fields is 120,000 barrels. Some \$610 million has been invested in the project.

He said that TOTAL is making a good progress at the Sirri oil fields.

The NIOC official stated that test drilling is one of the stages of the work on the project and building of sea platforms will soon follow.

Azerbaijan to Take Part in Tabriz Exhibition

BAKU (IRNA) - The Republic of Azerbaijan is to participate in the one-week international exhibition on environment, to be held in Tabriz, capital of Iran's East Azarbaijan province in October.

This was announced by Head of the Azeri State Committee for Environment Aref Mansurev in a meeting with the Iranian Charge d'Affaires to Baku, Afshar Soleymani, here Tuesday.

The exhibition aims to increase public awareness on various aspects and dimensions of environment, exchange information among experts of different countries and promote international cooperation for protection of environment.



TEHRAN - A man, a champion of the 1996 Asian Games, upon arrival at Tehran M. together with his father, responsible for the team's Games.

Facilitation of in Hungary for

TEHRAN - A man, a champion of the 1996 Asian Games, upon arrival at Tehran M. together with his father, responsible for the team's Games.

CHINA... From Page 1

us production... sees the United States... another... exports to the... are an... seas... country... Japan... sistent with... Pakistan... name... Many... vowed to... are described... as... Helms... for... that traded... But... has less... respect... with two... an ob... fifth of... European... Of course... this decision... U.S. ... yesterday... show... "Iran... when the S...

Handwritten text in Persian script: "کتابخانه ملی"

Talks with Foreign Companies Continue



TEHRAN: Rasul Khadem the world freestyle wrestling champion and the gold medal winner at the Atlanta Olympics upon arrival at Tehran Mehrabad Airport August 6. Rasul together with his brother Amir Reza and Abbas Jadidi were responsible for Iran's cash of three medals at the Atlanta Games.

Facilitation of Higher Education in Hungary for Iranian Students

TEHRAN - New entrance programs for students interested in studying medicine and other courses in Hungary have been introduced in Tehran. Professor Kristof Fuzesi, a member of academic boards of both Semmelweis and Albert Szent Gyorgyi universities, said in a recent interview.

According to Fuzesi, general medicine, dentistry and pharmacy courses are available in both universities, and the relevant diplomas can be used in any country.

But he said that possibly graduates would have to take other exams to make their certificates valid, depending on the policies of different countries.

The universities have had an English faculty for ten years and around 100 students each year attend. "We have altogether about 2,000 students, mainly general medical students, and about one third are attending the pharmacy faculty."

He said registration was the

biggest problem for students attending foreign universities. According to him it is because of high rates of hotel charges and other problems. This problem has been solved by taking entrance examinations to the homeland of the students including Iran, he said.

Dr. Shahrokh Mirzahassemi, the representative of Semmelweis (in Budapest) and Albert Szent Gyorgyi (in Szeged) universities in Tehran stated that presently several hundred Iranian students are studying in Hungary, some of whom have already graduated. According to him it is a tradition of about 6 or 7 years that Iranian students are going there to study in one of the fields of medical sciences, but his year they decided to take the entrance examinations to Tehran.

Professor Fuzesi and Dr. Mirzahassemi both agreed that Iranian students in Hungary are among the most hard working ones who have so far left a good impression.

its protest over the principle which sees the United States bring in yet another non-tariff barrier, restrict exports to the United States if they are not happy with what an overseas country is doing in a third country.

Japan said the law was inconsistent with WTO rules, while Pakistan described it as unfortunate.

Many countries have already vowed to retaliate against a measure described by the diplomat here "as ridiculous like the flopped Helms-Burton Law," which called for sanctions against U.S.-branches of foreign companies that traded with Cuba.

But diplomats say the outcry has less to do with a lofty wish to respect international law than with an obvious need to maintain trade with two countries that supply a fifth of all crude oil to the 15 European Union countries.

"Of course money is behind this decision (to criticize the U.S.)," a European diplomat said yesterday. "Nobody wants to shoot themselves in the foot."

"Iran used to be a U.S. market, when the Shah was around, but

will further radicalize the regime.

While they have supported a U.N. arms and aviation embargo slapped on Tripoli in 1992, they remain reluctant to disrupt trade with Libya for its refusal to turn over two suspects in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am flight 103.

A diplomat from one of the two countries targeted by the sanctions said he expected little change in bilateral trade.

"We are expecting relations to expand and trade with China is booming. China will not follow the U.S. decision."

For now, Washington is sticking to its guns and has vowed to defend the legislation before the WTO if European governments decided to challenge its legitimacy.

"Nothing at this point can dissuade U.S. from implementing American law," said State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns. "But we'd like to cooperate with the Europeans."

to meet with Netanyahu last month, said he agreed with Assad that the Lebanese and Syrian tracks of the peace process should not be divided.

Arafat Meets King Hussein

AQABA, JORDAN - Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat held talks here yesterday with King Hussein on ways to break the paralysis which has gripped the Palestinian peace process since the right wing came to power in Israel.

Arafat went straight into a meeting with the Jordanian monarch after arriving in the Red Sea resort of Aqaba from the autonomous Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian president said ahead of the talks that he would raise "many issues, including the continuity of the peace process and how to face together the obstacles" confronting Arab leaders since Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's election victory in May.

King Hussein Due in Saudi Arabia Next Week

AMMAN, JORDAN - Jordan's King Hussein is to visit Saudi Arabia next week for talks with senior Saudi officials on ways to boost bilateral ties and iron out Arab differences. Information Minister Marwan Muasher said Tuesday.

"The monarch is to visit Saudi Arabia next week within the framework of joint coordination and consultations on bilateral ties and inter-Arab relations," Muasher told journalists following a Cabinet meeting. He did not give the exact date for the visit.

An official source said King Hussein was scheduled to meet with Saudi King Fahd on the trip.

Japanese Foreign Minister to Visit ME

TOKYO, JAPAN - Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda will visit four Middle Eastern countries later this month to promote the regional peace process, government officials said yesterday.

Ikeda is scheduled to leave Japan on August 20 to visit Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Israel, officials said. He will make a stopover in Hong Kong before returning home on August 29, they said.

Ikeda, who is expected to meet leaders of the four countries, is the first high-level Japanese government official to visit the Middle East since his predecessor Tomichi Murayama visited the region last September.

Levy Bound to Resign

JERUSALEM - Foreign Minister David Levy may resign if Premier Benjamin Netanyahu keeps shutting him out of decision-making on the peace process, close associates said in the Israeli media yesterday.

In a sign of the escalating dispute between the two long-time political rivals, Levy failed to attend a special Cabinet session called by Netanyahu yesterday.

Levy also planned to boycott a meeting later the same day of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Israel public radio reported.

His absences followed statements by Netanyahu late Tuesday on Israeli television in which he made clear that he had no intention of handing over responsibility for directing Israel's peace efforts to the foreign minister.

"The nation chose me to safeguard what belongs to the state. There can only be one prime minister," he said when asked about reports that Levy was bristling over his exclusion from key foreign policy initiatives.

"Levy is upset, angry and hurt and he will not allow Netanyahu to take him for a ride," a close associate of the foreign minister told the newspaper Haaretz.

The aide said Levy was "bound to resign," possibly as early as Friday's weekly Cabinet meeting, if the dispute is not resolved.

U.S. Troops Prepare to Move to New Saudi Base

WASHINGTON, U.S.A. - Some 1,200 U.S. troops are being dispatched to Saudi Arabia to prepare a remote Saudi air base for U.S. and allied forces being moved there as a precaution against terrorist attacks, the Pentagon said Tuesday.

Air force engineers, security forces, and a variety of specialists were being sent from U.S. bases to the Al-Kla'ij air base, Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon said.

Bacon said the first group had arrived and the rest were due soon.

Palestinian Deputy Keeps His Jerusalem Office

JERUSALEM - A Palestinian deputy banned from running an office from his home in east Jerusalem on Tuesday was given permission to keep it open provided the office was not linked to the Palestinian Authority.

"The Israeli police have given up making me close my office on the condition that I promise that it is not linked to the Palestinian Authority," Hatem Abdel Kader told AFP.

that President Bill Clinton signed Monday to punish foreign firms that invest in the oil and gas industries of the two countries.

"We will watch the development of this relationship very

WEATHER

Tehran Temperature			
Maximum	36°C		
Minimum	26°C		
Shiny sky with wind			
Temperature extremes till noon today			
High: Ahwaz	47°C		
Low: Firoozkuh	9°C		
Temperature in some major cities of the world on August 6, 1996			
Ahu Dhabi	43°C	Rome	30°C
Paris	21°C	Karachi	30°C
Madrid	31°C	Delhi	31°C
Athens	34°C	London	18°C

Air Quality Control Company a subsidiary of Municipality of Tehran, which monitors the air quality in Tehran, announced:

Yesterday's ambient air quality expressed in terms of "Pollution Standard Index" (PSI) is categorized as unhealthy due to a high concentration of carbon monoxide and particulate matter

Particulate Matter

They are the result of three fundamental processes: 1) Material handling, 2) Combustion process (vehicles, industrial plants) 3) Corrosion of certain gaseous pollutants.

Airborne particles may cause damage to lungs and the normal functioning of the respiratory system. Environmental particulates effect include reduction in visibility, corrosive and erosive damage of materials and reduction in plant growth.

In Tehran, urban transportation is the major source of air pollution. Please, keep your vehicles well maintained at all times and don't warm the engine or use the choke more than you really have to.

Public and International Relations
Air Quality Control Company

carefully," Burns said. "We are skeptical that anything good can come out of this relationship with Iran."

Washington accuses Iran of supporting terrorism and charges the Islamic regime is seeking to acquire nuclear capabilities that would destabilize the Middle East.

Meanwhile, Turkey and Israel have postponed the signing of a cooperation agreement on defense technology due to be finalized during an upcoming visit by a senior Israeli official this week, the Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

"The preparations have not been concluded and the visit has been postponed," Foreign Ministry spokesman Nurettin Nurkan told a news briefing, referring to the planned visit by Israeli Defense Ministry's Director General David Levy.

"But the agreement will be signed in the near future," Nurkan said.

The defense technology agreement will mark the second military cooperation deal between Turkey and Israel this year.

A February military training and cooperation agreement between Ankara and the Jewish state, allowing Israeli war planes to carry out training flights in Turkish airspace, caused uproar in several Arab countries, most notably Syria.

dent remarked.

Recalling his assignments first as Pakistani ambassador and then as secretary-general, Shamsad Ahmad said, "Professionally, both my duties have been challenging and rewarding coinciding as they did with dramatic changes on the regional and global scenes."

He said the railway network, connecting Mashhad-Sarakh-Tajan, is a source of pride for Iran.

Shamsad Ahmad was referring to the 165-kilometer rail link in northeastern Iran popularly known as the New Silk Route. The rail network was inaugurated last May.

The secretary-general said the New Silk Route "brings credibility and grandeur to the Iranian nation and the government of President

Rafsanjani."

The New Silk Route provides Central Asia access to the rest of the world," Shamsad Ahmad recalled.

The former republics of the now defunct Soviet Union are landlocked and the new rail link which was inaugurated in the presence of several top officials from various countries provides China and Central Asia access to the Persian Gulf through Iran.

Shamsad Ahmad underlined the importance and the historical role of Iran for regional development and said, "All the members of the ECO attach significant importance to this crucial railway link."

suggesting he respond by refusing to transmit messages and reports from ambassadors to the prime minister's office and refuse diplomatic passports to Netanyahu aides.

"The atmosphere at the ministry has become unbearable," the diplomat was quoted as saying.

Levy and Netanyahu have a long history of bitter political rivalry and analysts say a new flare-up between the two could undermine the governing right-wing coalition which came to power in May 29 national elections.

Levy broke away from Netanyahu's right-wing Likud Party last year to set up a centrist political movement, Geshet, and planned to run against Netanyahu and Labor leader Shimon Peres in Israel's first direct election for prime minister.

He rallied to Netanyahu's side for the May elections only in exchange for a promise that he would be named foreign minister if the right won the polls, a post he already held under the last Likud government in the early 1990s.

Levy's leverage over Netanyahu was twice illustrated following the elections when he threatened to resign if Likud hardliner Ariel Sharon was not brought into the government.

His tactic worked and Netanyahu was forced to give in, naming Sharon to head a powerful and specially created national infrastructure ministry.

Azerbaijan to Take Part in Tabriz Exhibition

Free Economic Plan

China Accepts Draft Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

GENEVA (AFP) - China has accepted the draft nuclear Test Ban Treaty at negotiations in Geneva after reaching an agreement with the United States over Beijing's objections, sources close to the negotiations said yesterday.

The agreement was reached yesterday between Chinese envoy Zhuang Zuxian and his U.S. counterpart Stephen Ledogard at the U.N. Conference on Disarmament.

The deal has been submitted for approval by the two governments and was to be made public probably on Friday in Geneva, the sources said.

China, with objections over on-site inspections, had been the last of the five declared nuclear powers to have accepted the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

in its latest draft.

The other powers -- the United States, Russia, France and Britain -- had already indicated their acceptance of the draft, and their hope that the treaty can be signed next month when the U.N. General Assembly convenes in New York.

Chinese and U.S. negotiators had reported progress Tuesday after several days of intensive consultations concerning China's hesitation over the text's present proposal for on-site inspections to check against possible illegal nuclear tests.

Before the resumption of talks, China had warned that it would never sign an "unequal treaty" giving "one very advanced country" -- a clear reference to the United States -- exclusive power to launch

nuclear inspections.

It said the country was attempting to use its own monitoring technology as a sole criterion to initiate on-site inspections under the treaty.

"We cannot allow a few countries to be self-proclaimed international police and we can never accept this," a member of the Chinese negotiating team said in Beijing in mid-July.

"It is so obvious that these national technical means could be misused," he added.

With China's acceptance, the key remaining objection to the draft CTBT is India, which had insisted the treaty contain a provision obliging the five declared nuclear powers to commit themselves to a

timetable for their own nuclear disarmament.

India also objects to the treaty's so-called entry into force clause, which requires the five declared nuclear powers and the three "threshold" countries considered capable of producing a nuclear weapon -- India, Pakistan and Israel -- to ratify the treaty before it can take effect.

New Delhi fears that the clause is an affront to its sovereignty and puts unfair pressure on India to go along with the treaty, to which it seeks amendments.

The U.N. Disarmament Conference, with 61 nations participating, resumed work on July 29 after failing to reach a consensus on a draft treaty by June 28.



GENEVA, SWITZERLAND: Greenpeace activists stage a protest in front of the gate of the United Nations in Geneva, August 6, on the 51st anniversary of the drop of the Hiroshima nuclear bomb. Greenpeace protest for an immediate stop of nuclear tests. (AFP Photo)

Sri Lanka Says More Than 2,200 Killed in Garrison Rout

COLOMBO, SRI LANKA (AFP) - The Sri Lankan government yesterday said it had lost over 700 soldiers killed in a huge Tamil guerrilla attack against a military garrison where at least 500 rebels were also killed.

Junior Defense Minister Anura Kumara Ratnayake said the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) had used thousands of fighters, including suicide cadres, to overwhelm the 1,488-strong Mullaitivu garrison last month.

In the first official admission of a debacle at Mullaitivu, the minister told Parliament that "over 700" soldiers were killed.

The LTTE for its part said it lost 241 fighters and killed more than 1,200 government soldiers in an attack against Mullaitivu camp July 18. The military has since abandoned the base.

Meanwhile, it is reported that the Tigers, in a statement from their London office, said they were resisting the military onslaught and placed their losses at killed.

Officials said fighting continued yesterday and troops remained three kilometers (1.8 miles) from the town of Kiliuchchi.

Hashimoto, Murayama Agree to Delay Election Until Next Year

TOKYO, JAPAN (AFP) - Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and Social Democratic Party (SDP) Chairman Tomiichi Murayama have agreed to delay general elections until next year, a newspaper reported yesterday.

The Nihon Keizai Shimbun said the leaders of the two biggest parties in the ruling coalition reached the agreement during a meeting Tuesday morning in Hiroshima, where they were attending

ceremonies marking the city's atomic bombing in 1945.

Hashimoto and Murayama agreed it would be better to hold the elections after the budget is finalized at the end of the year, the newspaper said. The budget is usually adopted by the Cabinet in the last week of December.

The report came only a day after Hashimoto virtually ruled out an early election this year, citing both the budget and a heavy

diplomatic schedule.

While an election is not required until mid-1997, Hashimoto had been expected to dissolve the Lower House and go to the polls before the end of the year.

Hashimoto, who heads the Conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the dominant partner in the three-party coalition, requested the breakfast meeting with Murayama, the Nihon Keizai said.

Suspected Activists Gun down Four in Southern Egypt

MINYA, EGYPT (AFP) - Suspected Islamic activists opened fire on a crowd in a southern Egyptian village yesterday, killing two policemen and two civilians, police said.

They mowed down a 20-year-old student and a peasant farmer aged 32 as well as the two policemen in the attack in Safai Village near Abu Qurqas in the trouble-bit Mallawi region of Minya province before fleeing the scene.

Megawati to Comply with Police Summons, Activist Crackdown Continues

JAKARTA, INDONESIA (AFP) - Indonesian opposition Leader Megawati Sukarnoputri is to comply with a second summons to appear at Jakarta police headquarters for questioning on Friday, her lawyer said, amid a fresh crackdown on activists despite international warnings.

"She will go to the police station on Friday morning with her

legal team," Megawati's Chief Lawyer Robert Tambunan told AFP.

Tambunan said Megawati and her lawyers decided she should comply with the summons, received Monday, although the letter authorizing her questioning was signed by State Secretary Mardiono, not President Suharto.

Iraq Loaded Planes with Chemical Bombs in 1991, Says Dissident

DUBAI (AFP) - Iraq loaded chemical-tipped bombs onto 15 fighter-bombers on the eve of the U.S.-led Persian Gulf War to free Kuwait, but the planes never took off, an Iraqi dissident said in remarks published yesterday.

Saad al-Bazzaz, former head of the official Iraqi News Agency INA, also said in excerpts from his new book that President Saddam Hussein had planned to march on Saudi Arabia after invading Kuwait on August 2, 1990.

Bazzaz said in the excerpts published in the Arabic newspaper Al-Hayat that chemical weapons were loaded January 15, 1991 onto 15

Sukhoi-24 fighter-bombers stationed at Al-Bakr air base north-east of the capital Baghdad.

The planes were under the surveillance of the presidential security force, he wrote in his book, entitled "Modern History of Iraq." But nobody gave instructions to the pilots and the planes were unloaded the following day.

The dissident, who was also former editor of the official Jumhuriya newspaper, said Saddam had planned to launch a three-point offensive against Saudi Arabia just days after he had invaded Kuwait, but changed his mind.

Perry to Testify Before Russian Duma on Start II Ratification

WASHINGTON, U.S.A. (AFP) - U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry said Tuesday he would meet with the Russian Parliament to urge it to ratify the Start II Treaty.

Perry had previously offered to testify before the Russian Parliament, but in a speech to a lawyers group in Orlando, Florida he confirmed that he planned to do so.

"I am scheduled to meet with the Duma to testify in support of the Russian Duma ratifying this treaty next month," he said. "I am

optimistic that the Russian Duma will ratify that treaty."

Pentagon spokesman Brian Whitman said Perry confused the date of his Russian visit. He actually was planning to meet with the Duma sometime in October, not in September, he said.

Start II, which has been ratified by the U.S. Congress, would slash the strategic nuclear arsenals of the United States and Russia to about a quarter of their Cold War peak.

India to Hold Legislative Elections in Kashmir Next Month

NEW DELHI (AFP) - India's Autonomous Election Commission yesterday announced plans to hold legislative elections in Kashmir next month in a bid to restore normalcy to the Himalayan state ravaged by a Muslim insurgency.

The Election Commission said the state assembly elections in Kashmir, the first since the Muslim separatist drive began in 1989, will be staggered over four days -- September 7, 16, 21 and 30.

Voting in the volatile Muslim-majority Kashmir valley was spaced out over the four days of polling, with Srinagar, the Kashmir summer capital and the urban

hub of the Muslim separatist drive, voting on September 21.

The counting of the results will begin on October 1, election commissioners M.S. Gill and G.V.G. Krishnamurthy told a news conference here.

"The government is determined to restore democracy and the rule of law in Kashmir," Kashmir Governor K.V. Krishna Rao said in a statement whose release coincided with the announcement here of the election dates.

Kashmir has been under the direct rule of New Delhi since 1990.

One-Fourth of Flight TWA 800's Wreckage Recovered

WITHTOWN, NEW YORK (AFP) - Navy teams have recovered one-fourth of the wreckage of TWA Flight 800 but investigators are still searching for clues into cause of the fiery crash, officials said Tuesday.

"We estimate at this point that we have 15 to 20 percent of the craft," said Robert Francis, the

vice chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) which is leading the investigation.

No additional bodies had been found since one was brought up by U.S. navy divers Monday, he said.

"We're still unfortunately at 195 victims recovered," Francis said at a news conference here.

Teacher Forced Pupils to Drink Urine

BEIJING (AFP) - A schoolteacher in Guiyang, in the southern Chinese province of Guangxi, has been fired for forcing unruly pupils to drink urine, the Guangming daily reported yesterday.

Thirteen children in the second form (U.S. junior high school), aged about 12, were forced to drink "between one and three capfuls of urine, mixed with water, between May 13 and 24" after they played around in class or failed to do their homework, it said.

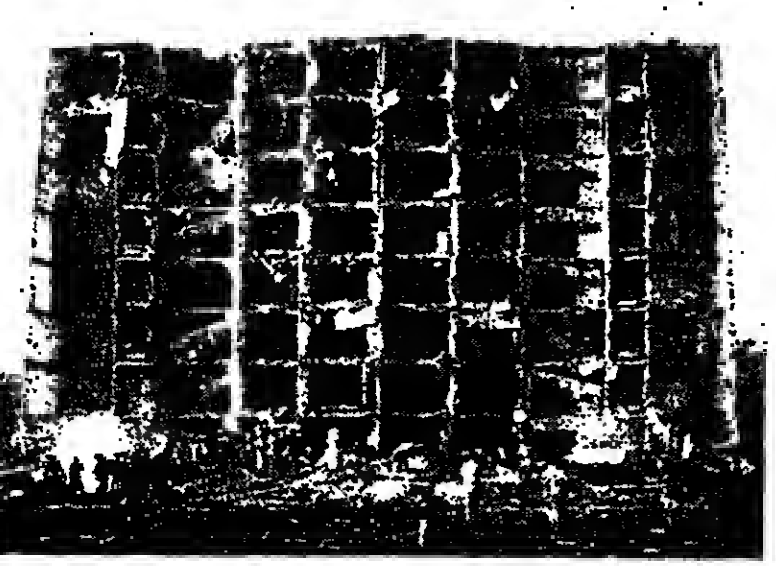
A pupil was tasked with gathering the urine from the school toilets, which in many cases in China are merely pits.

After the punishment, "some of the children were taken ill with vomiting and others rushed to a nearby pond to rinse out their mouths," the paper said.

The teacher, identified as Huangjiayu, also threatened to impose a fine of 10 yuan (\$1.2) on any child who told the outside world of her system of punishment.

Despite this, word leaked out and the teacher was fired, along with the school headmaster.

WASHINGTON, D.C., U.S.A.: The U.S. State Department released this poster August 5, offering a two million dollar reward for information leading to the arrest or conviction of those who bombed the Khobar Towers complex June 25 in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. The bomb left 19 dead and hundreds injured. (AFP Photo)



Is For Good Men To Do Nothing

Mobile Phone Cheat's Exam Excuse Doesn't Ring True

HONG KONG (AFP) - The mobile phone may be a ubiquitous part of Hong Kong life, but one exam student has discovered that there is at least one place you still can't use it.

The unnamed student who used his mobile phone to make a call from a toilet during an examination was disqualified for cheating despite his remonstrations, the press reported yesterday.

The candidate had told the examining authority that he had only used the phone to tell his employer he would be late for work.

But his incriminating call had been overheard by the examiner who accompanied him to the toilet.

A further eight candidates were similarly disqualified for cheating in a more conventional fashion, discovered with hidden scraps of paper or simply peering over their neighbor's shoulder.

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AFP) - The Columbian President's aircraft was fined for landing in Paris.

Tudjman
Milosevic Hold
First Post War
Official
Summit

China Slams
Britain for
Creating Idea
of Tibetan
Independence

Columbian
President's
Aircraft Fined
for Landing in Paris



IRAN
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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Tudjman,
Milosevic Hold
First Post-War
Official
Summit

VOULIAGMENI, GREECE (AFP) - Serbian and Croatian presidents Slobodan Milosevic and Franjo Tudjman opened their first official talks here yesterday on normalizing relations since the break-up of the former Yugoslavia in 1991.

Taking place in a Greek seaside resort south of Athens, the talks started at 10:15 a.m. (08:15 GMT) behind closed doors.

Officials with the delegations, which also included the foreign ministers of federal Yugoslavia and Croatia, were met by Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis as they arrived for the meeting.

Speaking to Croatian television before he left Zagreb, Tudjman said intensive diplomacy had been underway in recent months to create stability in former Yugoslavia.

"The main issue in the whole process is the normalization of relations between Croatia and Serbia... everyone is clear about it and that is what my trip is all about," he said.

The summit was called eight months after an accord in principle on "complete normalization" was reached on the sidelines of the Dayton Peace negotiations.

Both sides deny taking part in



KALESIIJA, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: A young Bosnian Muslim girl helps to tend her family's goat on a field next to a bombed out Greek-Orthodox church in the village of Kalesija, some 20 km east of Tuzla August 6. She and her family are refugees from the city of Zvornik in the Serb entity.

(AFP Photo)

a secret summit widely reported to have taken place in March 1991 at the Karadjordjevo hunting lodge of former Yugoslav Leader Marshal Josip Broz Tito, when they were alleged to have discussed the breakup of Yugoslavia and the division of Bosnia between their two states.

Both Belgrade and Zagreb have in the past suggested carving up Bosnia between them, and both are suspected by Sarajevo of planning the eventual partition of the country into Serbian and Croatian zones.

According to latest news, Serbia and Croatia will establish dip-

lomatic relations at the end of the month. Greek Prime Minister Costas Simitis said yesterday.

They will set up ties after a meeting in Belgrade at the foreign minister level, Simitis said after talks between Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and his Serbian counterpart Slobodan Milosevic.

China Slams
Britain for
Creating Idea
of Tibetan
Independence

BEIJING, CHINA (AFP) - China launched an angry attack yesterday against an address by the Dalai Lama to British legislators which called for a resumption of talks over the status of the region.

In a series of articles carried on Xinhua, Beijing slammed Britain for creating the notion of Tibetan independence during its colonial expansion and said the Dalai Lama was a tool of anti-China forces.

"The fact that the Dalai clique is asking for support from certain anti-China powers, which in the past attempted to colonize Tibet is a betrayal of the interests of the Chinese nation, including those of the Tibetan people," warned Dainzhub Angbun, vice-president of Beijing's Central University for Nationalities.

China has already warned that Sino-British relations will be adversely affected by the Tibetan spiritual leaders' visit to London in July, when he addressed the parliamentary inter-party group on Tibet in the House of Commons.

Colombian
President's
Aircraft Fined for
Landing in Paris

BOGOTA (AFP) - Colombia's aging presidential jet was fined \$10,000 when it landed in Paris for President Ernesto Samper's recent meeting with French President Jacques Chirac, the weekly Semana reported.

The Boeing 707, which came on line in the 1940s, incurred the fine by violating noise pollution standards at Paris' Orly Airport, the weekly reported.

Filipino Muslim Guerrillas Pull out as Army
Sets up Permanent Outpost

ZAMBOANGA, PHILIPPINES (AFP) - Muslim guerrillas who occupied a small island near this southern city completed their pull-out yesterday and the military said it will set up a permanent outpost there.

In Manila, President Fidel Ramos played down the occupation of the island, saying the 200 Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) guerrillas were only

there because they were hungry.

Military spokesman Fredesvindo Covarrubias said the last of the guerrilla unit, which had occupied Limaong since last week, had pulled out by noon, adding many of the villagers who fled the island were returning.

He said the army has decided to set up a permanent detachment on the island, 60 kilometers (37 miles) north of here, apparently to

guard it against the return of the MNLF.

The occupation of the island threatened an interim peace agreement forged between the government and the MNLF. However, MNLF forces agreed to withdraw after a joint cease-fire monitor ruled they were violating the terms of the truce.

Erbakan
Denies Having
Plans for Talks
with PKK

ANKARA (AFP) - Turkey's Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan yesterday denied press reports that his government planned to open indirect peace talks with the separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

"We don't sit at the negotiating table with terrorists. We don't make concessions to them," Erbakan told reporters here after a weekly meeting with President Suleyman Demirel.

"It is not possible for us to give up the principle of a unitary state," Erbakan said. "Any press report going beyond this is fabrication."

The liberal Istanbul daily Sabah reported at the weekend that Erbakan had met the Islamist Kurdish writer Ismail Naci, who is known to have contacts with PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan, to discuss ways of settling the Kurdish question.

Meanwhile, according to the latest report, Turkish soldiers have killed 24 members of the separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in southeast Turkey, regional sources said here yesterday.



CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA: Armed anti-drug Muslims, members of People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (PAGAD), march through the streets of Athlone, Cape Town in a show of strength August 6. Tired of the ineffectual attempts by the police to control the drug trade, PAGAD has taken the law into their own hands and declared war on drug-lords and gangsters.

(AFP Photo)

U.S. Interests in Kuwait
Threatened

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) - The U.S. Embassy said here yesterday that it has received a threat of a bomb attack against an American government installation in Kuwait.

"It was a threat against an American government installation. We are taking further precautions," said a U.S. Embassy spokesman who asked not to be named.

The threat was relayed to the U.S. Embassy by an Arabic language newspaper, which the spokesman did not identify.

As-Siyassa newspaper published an article yesterday that said a "local newspaper" had received a warning of a bomb attack against a U.S. government installation.

The embassy was informed of the threat on Tuesday, and the spokesman declined to comment on whether the embassy may have received more threats yesterday.

A spokesperson said Sunday that the U.S. Embassy here had heard of no threats received by U.S. interests in Kuwait.

U.S. government and military installations around the Persian Gulf have stepped up security since a truck bomb on June 25 killed 19 U.S. airmen and wounded hundreds of others at a military base in Khobar, Saudi Arabia.

The U.S. Embassy in Kuwait is building a new perimeter fence of concrete blocks outside the main wall, while the U.S. military has extended the perimeter fence at Camp Doha.

Several senior U.S. officials,

including U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry, have visited Kuwait and Saudi Arabia in the last few weeks to review security measures for U.S. forces in the region following the Khobar attack.

After his July visit, Perry said U.S. forces are now on the "highest possible threat level" and said commanders had been instructed to prepare for an "imminent" attack.

There are no combat troops "based" in Kuwait, but prepositioned equipment for a brigade is maintained on a rotating basis by a battalion of 1,500 U.S. troops at Camp Doha, which is in the desert north of Kuwait City.

Perry said in Washington on Saturday that the force protection measures taken at Camp Doha gave him the impression it was "on a war footing... it is a very, very hard target for anybody thinking that they might want to attack it."

The United States opened its new embassy earlier this year in a Kuwait city suburb, moving from a pre-1991 Persian Gulf war building overlooking the Persian Gulf in the center of town.

In December 1983, the U.S. and French embassies here were hit by bombings claimed by the Islamic Jihad. A total of five people were killed and 61 wounded in the attacks.

The U.S. Embassy has advised American citizens in Kuwait to "be vigilant of their personal security and surroundings" since the Khobar bombing.

Rwanda Says It Will Work with
New Burundi Government

NAIROBI (AFP) - Rwanda has no intention of imposing unilateral sanctions against Burundi's military-backed regime which seized power last month, Rwanda's Vice President and Defense Minister Paul Kagame said yesterday.

"We are saying we are going to work with them, to help them (the new government) find a solution," General Kagame told the BBC in an interview monitored here.

Rwanda's position defies a decision taken by seven regional African countries at a summit last week, attended by Rwandan President Pasteur Bizimungu, to impose economic sanctions against Burundi.

So far, the embargo has been imposed only by neighboring Tanzania and Kenya, vital trading channels for the tiny landlocked Central African republic.

The other four countries represented at the summit in Arusha, Tanzania, were Zaire, Ethiopia, Uganda and Cameroon, as chairman of the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

Meanwhile the Rwandan presidency Wednesday denied a statement by the vice president that this country has no plans to join other African nations in imposing sanctions on Burundi, state-run radio said.

The World at
a Glance

WASHINGTON, U.S.A. - Swedish Prime Minister Goeran Persson met with President Bill Clinton Tuesday to discuss security in the Baltics where fears are growing of a confrontation between the West and Russia over NATO enlargement.

TAIPEI, TAIWAN - Four officials have been arrested for alleged negligence of duties during Taiwan's worst flood in 30 years when typhoon Herb hit Taiwan last week, prosecutors said yesterday.

KARACHI, PAKISTAN - Thirty-eight Indian children who were arrested early last year on charges of illegally fishing in Pakistan's territorial waters are expected to leave for India later this month, a private welfare organization said yesterday.

PANMUNJOM, S. KOREA - The bodies of four North Koreans including two soldiers swept southwards by devastating floods last month were repatriated yesterday as their government issue a desperate appeal for international aid.

Winter's Coach

LONDON (AFP) - David Lloyd was invited to be England's coach for the coming winter tour to Zimbabwe and New Zealand on Tuesday having been appointed at the start of the summer after Raymond Illingworth relinquished his England 'Supremo' role.

Australian Cricketer Stuart Law may be forced to miss Essex's Natwest trophy semi-final against Surrey next Tuesday after the Australian board of control insisted he leave for their Sri Lanka tour on the evening of the match.

IRAN NEWS

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Thursday August 8, 1996, Mordad 18, 1375, Rabi-ul Avval 22, 1417

SPORTS

Beaten but not Bowed

PHNOM PENH (AFP) - Cambodia's first Olympic team in nearly 25 years returned home medallionless from Atlanta Wednesday having been soundly beaten in all their events but nonetheless optimistic about the future.

Smiling and dressed in the same uniforms they wore marching into the opening ceremony, Cambodia's five Olympic competitors, two swimmers, a wrestler and two runners, said at Phnom Penh's Pochentong International Airport that they enjoyed the Games regardless of the poor finishes.

"The most important thing for us was to show the world that the Cambodian flag was there," said Prum Bun Yee, the head of the delegation. "We all now understand clearly what our abilities are. We need to learn a lot more from (other countries)."

The top Cambodian athlete at the Games, 28-year-old marathon runner to Rithya, who came in 105th out of 111 finishers in his event, agreed.

"The events have given me good experience in comparing myself to the other runners," said Rithya, who became the first Cambodian athlete to carry the country's flag into the Olympics since the 1972 games in Munich.

Cambodia's two female athletes, entered in the 100-meter breaststroke and the 100-meter sprint, both finished dead last in their preliminary heats but still smiled and shrugged off the sarcastic comments of airport security staff who yelled "where are the medals?" as the team walked out.

Athletics trainer Yem Oddom said he had not known how far behind his country had fallen since the brutal Khmer Rouge regime and a decade of civil war that followed.

"We carefully selected our athletes to compete there, but now we understand that at that kind of high competition we are very far behind," he said.

"But this doesn't mean we should stop our commitment to sports."

Hem Lumphat, the 22-year-old 200-meter individual medley swimmer who was disqualified in his preliminary heat, said he was "embarrassed" by his performance, but that he would work and

Grand Reception Awaits Nigerian Team to Olympic Games

LAGOS (AFP) - The Nigerian government has planned a grand reception Wednesday in Abuja, the nation's capital, for the country's contingent to the 1996 Atlanta Olympics Games, official sources said here Tuesday.

The contingent would be received on arrival at the Abuja International Airport by the minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja and a member of the Provisional Ruling Council (PRC), General Jerry Useni, the officials said.

The team would be formally received by the head of state, General

train harder in the future.

"I was very embarrassed because I could not bring a medal home, but I'm glad I can see now that my abilities are very weak compared to the others. All of the others were very good swimmers and I need to do much more work before I can win."

Though some of the delegation said they had been a bit put off by the food available at the Olympic Village, none of them complained about Atlanta's staging of the Games which has been vehemently criticized by other nations.

Even the pipe-bomb blast that killed two people and wounded more than 100 others in the Olympic Centennial Park did not appear to phase the Cambodians.

Sampras Disposes of Hlasek

MASON, OHIO (AFP) - Top seed Pete Sampras disposed of Swiss Veteran Jakob Hlasek here on Tuesday in the second round of the ATP championship 6-3, 6-4, his first match since Richard Krajicek ended his three year reign at Wimbledon.

Sampras, the world number one, showed that the achilles heel injury which kept him out of the Olympics had fully recovered.

The 24-year-old American, beaten by Krajicek in the Wimbledon quarter-finals, played some superb tennis as he outclassed Hlasek, ranked 54th in the world.

Sampras is determined to correct the impression that his form has been adversely affected by his former coach Tim Gullikson's death from a brain tumor earlier this year. Sampras is without a Grand Slam title this year.

"I feel I'm healthy and with the U.S. Open coming up it's my last chance to win a major this year. I'll do whatever I can," Sampras said.

Sampras, who plays either Petr Korda of the Czech Republic or Australian Mark Woodforde on Thursday, said 1996 had been "pretty good but not great."

"It hasn't been as good as last year but there is one more major left in Flushing Meadow, that's where I'm hoping to win."

Sampras' compatriot Jim Courier, a former world number one, put in a good performance as he dispatched Briton Greg Rusedski 6-7 (3/7), 6-3, 6-4 in 132 minutes.

Sports Highlights



KAHAR, TEHRAN PROVINCE: University of Tehran's sorority members atop 4,150m high Mount Kahar. The twenty-seven member team made the climb in remembrance of martyrs of Tir-seven.

(Photo by S.)

Romanian Swimmers Defect

BUCHAREST (AFP) - Two Romanian Olympic swimmers have asked for political asylum in the United States it was reported here on Tuesday.

Brits Return to Low-Key Welcome

LONDON - The British Olympic team arrived at Gatwick airport on Tuesday to a less-than-rapturous reception after a catalogue of failures, injuries and disappointing performances in Atlanta.

Olympics Princess Returns

DUBLIN - torrential rain and strong winds may have kept down the numbers, but did not dampen the spirits of those who did brave the weather to welcome home Ireland's Olympic team, and especially four-medal-winner Michelle Smith, to the Irish capital Tuesday.

Wilson Shows All-Round Promise

CHELMSFORD, ENGLAND - Danny Wilson, the 19-year-old Essex all-rounder, enjoyed a successful debut against South Africa here on Tuesday with an unbeaten 52 and two wickets although the tourists finished with an 11-run victory.

Historic Olympic Team Returns

JOHANNESBURG - South Africa's historic Olympic team was treated to a rousing welcome home Tuesday from a crowd of 2,000 singing, chanting people at Johannesburg's International Airport.

Christie pessimistic About Future

LONDON - Britain's Former Olympic and world 100 meters champion Linford Christie said on Tuesday that Great Britain will never produce another 100m Olympic champion.

Christie, disqualified from the 100 meters final for two false starts, told English newspaper the Daily Mirror that the lack of funding for British sport was the reason why Britain was left struggling at the bottom of the medals table.

Boland Invitation XV

WORCESTER, SOUTH AFRICA - New Zealand bear Boland Invitation XV 32-21 Tuesday, surviving a surprising second-half rally by the Western Cape Second Division squad.

Back at Wembley

MANCHESTER, ENGLAND - Manchester United's star summer signing Karel Poborsky is set to make his debut in the Charity Shield at Wembley on Sunday, six weeks after he played for the Czech Republic in their 2-1 defeat by Germany in the Euro '96 final.

St. Mirren Hit Back

LONDON - St. Mirren chief executive Bob Earle rejected suggestions on Tuesday that debts of \$1.5 million are threatening the club's future.

Shearer-Fever

NEWCASTLE, ENGLAND - The whole city of Newcastle came to a virtual standstill on Tuesday as the world's most expensive footballer Alan Shearer made an emotional homecoming before thousands of fans.

League Agree to Postponement

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND - Hearts won their fight with the Scottish Football League on Tuesday to have Saturday's opening Scottish Premier Division match at Dunfermline postponed in order to recover from their European Cup Winners' Cup clash.

Marshall Heroics for Celtic

KOSICE, SLOVAKIA - Gordon Marshall was 10-man Celtic's hero as his penalty save kept the final score at 0-0 against Slovakia's Kosice in the qualifying round, 1st leg of the UEFA Cup here on Tuesday.

Matarrese Quits

ROME - Antonio Matarrese, Vice-President of both FIFA and UEFA, has quit as head of the Italian Football Federation after losing support following Italy's flop at Euro 96.

Rangers Are Fully Fit

EDINBURGH: Rangers manager Walter Smith will select from a virtually fully fit squad for Wednesday's home European Cup preliminary tie first-leg match against Alania Vladikavkaz.

No Sales

LONDON - Yorkshire said on Tuesday that lack of interest in the Pakistan tourists was the reason for disappointing ticket sales leading up to Thursday's Second Cricket Test against England at Headingley.

Smith to Quit with Warwickshire

LONDON - Warwickshire cricketer Paul Smith requested on Tuesday that his county release him from the last two months of his contract.



MONZA, ITALY: F1 German World Champion Michael Schumacher (L) gestures as he talks to a technician of the Ferrari team during a training session at the Monza circuit August 6 before the Hungarian "Grand-Prix" to be held Aug. 10.

(AFP Photo)

REPORT
India Mulls Fund
Firms to Acquire

Russian Pilots,
to Strike From

Portugal H
2.25 Percent

مكتبة الأمل



Highlights



University of Tehran's sorority Mount Kahar. The twenty-seven in remembrance of martyrs of

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IRAN BUSINESS NEWS

German Gov't Expects Two Percent Growth Until 2000

BONN (AFP) - The German government indicated on Tuesday that it expects the economy to grow by an average two percent annually in real terms until the end of the century.

An economics ministry projection said gross domestic product (GDP) was expected to rise by a nominal average four percent a year, with inflation limited to two percent.

The ministry document said

that following a recent slight downturn in the economy the positive growth outlook for 1996 would continue.

The latest official government forecast for GDP growth for this year is 0.75 percent. This incorporates a 0.5 percent first quarter decline, which came after stagnation in the last quarter of 1995.

The IFO economic institute last week matched the government's prediction of 0.75 percent growth for this year, and also predicted two percent growth for 1997.

REPORT: India Mulls Fund for Domestic Firms to Acquire Global Brands

NEW DELHI (AFP) - The Indian government is planning to set up a brand acquisition fund to help domestic firms acquire international product names, a daily reported Wednesday.

The brand acquisition fund would form a part of a 14-million-dollar brand equity fund, set up a month ago to promote Indian brands in international markets, the Economic Times newspaper said.

"The brand acquisition fund will help (Indian) corporations acquire big international brands put up for sale and build them up as Indian brands in the international market," Bala. Bull Ramaiiah,

commerce minister told the daily. Ramaiiah said the fund would enable a reverse flow in brand acquisition, as so far only multinationals have acquired Indian brands, such as Coca-Cola's acquisition of Parle.

"However, the brand acquisition fund may only be offered to companies which will help the country promote exports with the help of the acquired brand," Ramaiiah said.

The government is also planning to grant tax exemptions for contributions to the new scheme and will ask corporations to contribute more money to the brand equity fund, Ramaiiah said.

Russian Pilots, Controllers to Strike From August 27

MOSCOW (AFP) - Russian pilots and air-traffic controllers announced a general strike from August 27 in support of demands for negotiations over pay and conditions, the Independent Pilots' Union said on Tuesday.

Five independent unions, representing 20 percent of all staff of Russian airlines and most pilots and controllers, were behind the strike call, the vice president of the pilots' union Vadim Serov said.

The union represented 32,000 of 35,000 Russian pilots, he said.

The unions expected that the administration would take the strike call to the courts and that

the courts would declare the strike to be illegal.

"But in any case we want to draw attention to our demands," he said.

The pilots say that a strike would paralyze air transport throughout Russia.

Monthly pay of air crew ranges from 500,000 rubles (\$100) to 16 million rubles (\$3,000). The average pay for crew on domestic flights was 1.8 million rubles (\$600) and the average overall was 2.1 million rubles (\$700), Serov said.

Average pay in Russia is the equivalent of about \$140 per month.

Portugal Heads for 2.25 Percent Growth

PARIS (AFP) - The Portuguese economy is set to grow by 2.25 percent this year and 2.0 percent next year but flexibility must be introduced in all sectors, the OECD said in a report dated Wednesday.

Unless changes were introduced, an increase of unemployment would become structurally established, the organization warned.

The economy had weakened in the first half of the year but should rally in the second half, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said.

Exports would drive real growth of gross domestic product (GDP) to 2.25 percent this year and 2.0 percent next year.

Growth in 1997 would result in part from the staging of "Expo 1998" which might contribute about three-quarters of a point to GDP in 1998.

But this growth would probably increase employment only

slightly because international competition would result in big increases of productivity.

The rate of unemployment was likely to increase to 7.4 percent of the workforce in 1996 and to 7.5 percent in 1997.

The balance of payments on current account would remain roughly in balance in 1996 and 1997. The prices of imported goods would rise only slightly, and these two factors could reduce consumer price inflation to 3.0 percent in 1997.

The main factor of uncertainty in these forecasts was the extent of recovery of foreign demand, and notably from other countries in Europe. The main domestic risk concerned overshooting of the budget deficit.

The government's strategy for convergence under the Maastricht Treaty for Economic and Monetary Union had been "remarkably effective" in creating the financial conditions needed for stable and non-inflationary growth, the OECD said.

Menem Seeks to Reassure Investors Over Peso-Dollar Lock

BUENOS AIRES (AFP) - President Carlos Menem assured foreign companies Tuesday that his government's inflation-busting, effective peso-dollar peg was not in for a change.

New Economy Minister Roque Fernandez has vowed repeatedly to keep the country on the same path paved by his predecessor Domingo Cavallo whom Menem dumped amid rising discontent over the 17 percent jobless rate.

"There is not the least chance of a change in economic policy," Menem told reporters at the Los Olivos presidential residence, adding that foreign firms "can keep investing" with confidence.

"We are going to begin as of this week negotiations" with the International Monetary Fund, Menem added, but "Argentina does not accept any kind of pressure."

Asked about the social fallout from unprecedented high unemployment, Menem argued that the country's poverty rate had fallen from 50 percent in 1989 to 13 percent last year, and that all countries had some poor.

"There is poverty everywhere," the president said. "I saw people sleeping on the streets in downtown New York and Washington."

CASA ROSADA



Argentine Economist Roque Fernandez, who President Carlos Menem appointed to the post of economy minister July 26.

(AFP Photo)

The president said the 1997 midterm congressional elections would "not effect in the least our economic policy." He said a planned \$80 billion in government spending "had been delayed a bit but clearly is moving ahead."

He also said Fernandez' new economic team would be working hard to combat the outlawed "informal" labor market estimated to employ some 3.5 million people.

Today, Menem said, "the priority is fighting the deficit and tax evasion. People who do not pay taxes are the real corrupt ones."

Foreign Minister Guido di Tella, on a visit to Mexico City Tuesday, acknowledged the un-

employment rate was a dramatic problem but said "there is no magic formula to fix it."

"It is not the fault of this (Menem's) government," Di Tella said in an interview with Radio Red. "It is related to the country's productive transformation" which he deemed "competitive." In the past, Di Tella argued, "you could hire someone and pay them terribly" - not the case today.

"Interest rates have to come down, capital has to be attracted and we are going to recover, not in some sudden way, the job creation rate," he said, adding, "Unemployment is perhaps the most dramatic problem of this decade."

Toyota to Build Car Plant in Brazil

TOKYO (AFP) - Japan's Toyota Motor Corp. said Wednesday it would build a \$150-million car plant in Brazil.

The leading Japanese auto maker said the plant, to be sited in Indaiatuba, near Sao Paulo, would make Corolla passenger cars in cooperation with Toyota do Brasil sa Industria e Comercio.

end of 1998, Toyota said.

It said the total cost of the factory, plant and equipment would be \$150 million, with annual capacity of 15,000 units.

Initial output would be directed to the Brazilian market.

By building a manufacturing base in Brazil, Toyota would benefit by being allowed to im-

port vehicles under a 70-percent tariff.

Japan filed a request for consultation with Brazil over its auto policy with the World Trade Organization in Geneva on July 30.

That move was aimed at countering a sharp drop in its auto exports to Brazil following the

introduction in January of a new auto policy providing tax incentives for foreign car makers whose Brazilian operations have achieved a local content ratio of at least 60 percent.

Brazil's imports of Japanese-made vehicles in the first six months of this year plunged to 1,500 units from 32,000 units a year earlier.

The Japanese government apparently decided to take the dispute to the WTO, hoping for an early settlement so as to avoid the issue turning into a bitter political problem ahead of Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's visit to Brazil in late August.



Toyota's announcement comes amid Japanese protests to the World Trade Organization over Brazil's high-tariff automotive import policy alleging unfair trade practice.

Brazil's automotive trade regime places 70-percent tariffs on automotive imports, but reduces the tariff on foreign vehicles to 35 percent if the manufacturer operates plants in Brazil.

France's Renault and Hyundai of South Korea reportedly announced plans to build factories in Brazil after the auto policy was unveiled.

Toyota said in a statement it had decided to expand vehicle production in Brazil due to the attractive growth of the Latin American auto market. It has been assembling Bandeirante light commercial vehicles in Brazil since 1959.

Work on the 1.55-million-square-meter (16.68-million-square-foot) site is expected to commence late this year with production scheduled to begin at the

Oman Signs Agreement for Gas Project

MUSCAT (AFP) - Oman on Tuesday signed an agreement with three western partners to launch the upstream phase of a multi-billion-dollar gas liquefaction project, the official news agency ONA said.

The agreement with Shell, Total and Parlex, all shareholders in the state-controlled Petroleum Development of Oman (PDO), includes drilling and development of gas fields and building pipelines to transport natural gas to the southern port of Sur, where the LNG complex would be set up.

The 1.4-billion-dollar upstream project would be financed through sales of natural gas while funds for the LNG plant, to cost around \$4.6 billion, would come from the Omani government, its partners and bank loans.

Oil Minister Said al-Shanfari

and the minister of national economy, Ahmad bin Abdul Nabi Mekki, signed the contract with the three firms.

"The signing of this agreement is an important and advanced step in securing financing for the upstream part of the project."

"This means the LNG venture is getting off the ground," Shanfari said.

Oman, a small non-OPEC oil producer, has signed several LNG supply contracts, mostly with Asian consumers. The project, Oman's first LNG venture, will produce around six million tons when it is commissioned in 2000.

The project was prompted by large discoveries, which boosted the Persian Gulf state's reserves of natural gas to nearly 750 billion cubic meters (25 trillion cubic feet) at the end of 1995.

Economic Digest

VIENNA - Austrian Airlines made an operating loss of 313 million schillings in the first half of the year from a loss of 141.5 million schillings (\$14 million) in the same period of last year, the company said on Tuesday.

The number of passengers carried increased by five percent to 1,564,218. The amount of freight carried fell by 1.7 percent to 29,322 tons.

Meanwhile, at Amstelveen in the Netherlands, the Dutch airline KLM reported that it had doubled net profits in the first quarter of its 1996-97 financial year to 271 million guilders (\$164 million).

This included an exceptional gain of 179 million guilders from the sale to its U.S. partner Northwest Airlines of a first installment of northwest preference shares devoid of voting rights.

A second installment of shares had been sold to northwest, yielding a gain to KLM of 115 million guilders which would appear in the results for the second quarter.

TAIPEI - Taiwan's trade surplus in the first seven months of the year soared 193.5 percent from a year earlier to reach \$6.93 billion U.S. dollars, the finance ministry said Wednesday.

Exports advanced 4.3 percent year-on-year in the January-July period to hit \$66.07 billion, while imports declined 3.0 percent to \$59.14 billion, the ministry said.

The trade gap between Taiwan and its largest trading partner, the United States, increased 29.8 percent to \$3.37 billion in favor of Taiwan, it said.

Taiwan's trade surplus with Hong Kong - the main transshipment port for commerce between the island and China - declined 2.5 percent from the same period last year, standing at \$13.75 billion in the January-July period, it added.

TOKYO - Japanese auto maker Nissan Motor Co. Ltd. has begun shipping its Primera passenger car to Taiwan from British unit Nissan Motor Manufacturing U.K. Ltd., company officials said Wednesday.

The move is aimed to cope with continued strong demand for the medium-sized car in Taiwan after Nissan switched local production from the Primera to the Cefiro model, the officials said.

Primera deliveries from the British unit to Taiwan were about 200 units a month, they said.

The unit produced 90,000 Primers in calendar 1995.

MICHIGAN - Car-maker Saturn and parent company General Motors (GM) will invest \$900 million to produce the "innovate," a mid-sized family car, the two announced Tuesday.

Some 2,600 employees at a Saturn plant in Wilmington, Delaware, will build the new vehicle - reportedly inspired by the Opel Vectra - with which Saturn hopes to fill a gap in its production.

The company, launched in the 1980s, successfully captured a large portion of the young market with its novel production and marketing techniques.

Saturn now hopes to attract those now in the market for a family vehicle, and who do not see what they want among Saturn's small Sedan, station wagon and coupe.

The "innovate" should be available mid-1998.

IRAN NEWS

Desert Encroachment Threatens 400 Million People in China

BEIJING (AFP) - The homes and lands of some 400 million Chinese are threatened by desert, which is gobbling up 2,100 square kilometers (840 square miles) of usable land a year. Vice Forestry Minister Zhu Guangyao warned recently.

One-third of China is already desert, he said.

Speaking in Beijing at the opening of the six-day Asia-Africa Forum on combating desertification, Forestry Minister Xu Youfang said China had much to learn from African countries that had long experience of keeping back the sands.

"Over one billion people in the world are directly threatened by desertification and 135 million are likely to lose their land in the immediate future," Xu said, quoting figures from the U.N. convention to combat desertification.

The danger from creeping deserts sends a new chill down the spines of agriculture experts already battling the loss of huge swathes of land to flooding and urbanization.

Only last month, the state land administration warned of serious food shortages as land lost to cities worsened the task of feeding a population of 1.2 billion that is growing by 111 million each year.

The respected U.S.-based Worldwatch Institute earlier this year said China - which imported some 17 million tons last year - could face a deficit of between 200 million and 365 million tons by 2030.

Chinese experts have rejected the forecast, but acknowledge China is heading for a shortfall, estimated at some 50 million tons by early next century.

Transcendental Meditation Lowers Blood Pressure

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Transcendental meditation lowers blood pressure more effectively than other relaxation techniques or a lifestyle change, according to an American Heart Association study published recently.

"Hypertension," a three-month study of 111 African-Americans, 55-85 years old, showed that transcendental meditation significantly reduced blood pressure related to stress or multiple risk factors.

Participants were divided into three groups: the first practiced meditation, the second a muscle-relaxation method, and the third tried lifestyle modification.

"For both men and women, the transcendental meditation reduction approach appeared to have an effect approximately twice of progressive muscle relaxation," concludes Charles Alexander, who conducted the study.

The study found the same relationship between transcendental meditation and lifestyle modification.

In an editorial, Alexander cautions that not all high blood pressure is due to stress, and that the results of the study are therefore not generally applicable.

Executive Beats Stress by Buying a Field

LONDON (AFP) - An overworked British executive has found her own way to beat stress - by buying a meadow set in picturesque countryside and sitting in it.

Senior Management Consultant Margaret Gordon forked out 5,500 pounds (\$8,000) to buy the 1.5 acre (0.6 hectare) field in Hampshire, southern England,

Smog Chokes Sao Paulo into Experiment with Driving Restrictions

SAO PAULO (AFP) - Eye-stinging smog drove authorities to launch a program in Brazil's biggest city to curb pollution by banning 20 percent of cars from Sao Paulo's streets each day, officials said.

Environment Secretary Fabio Feldmann's measures may improve air quality for the 15 million inhabitants of the Sao Paulo metropolitan area by removing up to 20 percent of the area's 2.8 million vehicles on any given day.

Cars with license plate numbers ending in one or two were barred from the streets on Monday between 7:00 a.m. and 20:00 (1000 to 2300 GMT). Proscribed on Tuesday are those ending in three or four, and so on.

If caught driving out of turn, residents face stiff fines: \$100 the first time and doubling each time thereafter, to \$800 by the fourth infraction for example.

Brazil's minimum monthly salary is \$112.

A total of 1,800 enforcers drawn from the police and staff from an environmental agency will patrol 91 strategic points in Sao Paulo.

A public opinion poll in Estado de Sao Paulo Daily reveals that many doubt the measure will do the trick, in part because of exemptions for such groups as doctors and truck drivers.

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The Total Perspective Vortex

Blake saw a world in a grain of sand. Modern physics can see the origin of the universe in a drop of liquefied gas

Some people make models of things for fun. Scientists do it for a living. The purpose in both cases is the same: to realize an ambition. Those who make models wish to possess something normally too big, small or expensive for their grasp — be it a fast car, a town or a molecule of DNA. Now some physicists in France, Britain and Finland have indulged an enthusiast's greatest possible ambition. Using only a small drop of liquid helium, they have built a crude but working model of the entire early universe.

Theories about the early universe are hard to test, since it existed so long ago. Physicists can look at the universe they inhabit today for traces of its riotous youth, and use them to construct theoretical models. However, this is rather like trying to make a

model of a car by looking at its tire tracks in the mud.

Up to now, this is precisely what researchers have done. Using particle accelerators, they create short-lived particles out of searing heat, like that in the early cosmos, and look at their tracks. This reveals a lot about particles, and particles certainly matter. (They are matter.) Yet, according to theory, there was a fleeting instant after the Big Bang before any particle existed. As the universe rapidly cooled, a die was cast, something that influenced how all that matter would later be spread around it. The universe had a transition, physicists think: a phase transition — something like what happens when a liquid freezes to a solid.

Or, more accurately, when a fluid cools to a superfluid. The

groups led by Yuriy Bunkov and Henri Godfrin at the Center National de la Recherche Scientifique in Grenoble, and George Pickett and Shaun Fisher at Lancaster University, were experimenting with a beaker of liquid helium-3 (³He, the type of helium atom with two protons and one neutron). Below a certain temperature, a little above absolute zero, ³He is a superfluid: frictionless. Sweep your hand through a tub of water and vortices will swirl in its wake. They quickly disappear, their energy dispersed by friction between the water molecules. Do the same with a pure superfluid (disregarding for the moment that your hand will freeze solid and shatter) and any vortices that do not collide with others will dance on indefinitely.

The experimenters did not have vortices in mind when they first designed their tiny helium bucket, nor did they have any intention of constructing a universe in miniature. They wanted to make a sensitive particle detector. Each time a particle (a neutron, for their tests) was fired into the bucket, it was caught up by the helium. The resulting jump in the helium's temperature should have given an accurate measure of how much energy had gone in. Yet the temperature never rose by quite as much as expected. They were getting less energy out than they put in: it was being stored up somewhere. And in a drop of superfluid helium there are not many places that energy can hide. The researchers could only surmise that it was tied up in vortices.

They suggested that as neutrons scattered into the helium, each heated up a small region — kicking it above the transition temperature to become a normal fluid. In that guise its energy could disperse, allowing the hot bubble of fluid to cool and become a superfluid again.

Here the peculiarities of superfluids came into play. A normal fluid (eg, water) is said to have spherical symmetry: it looks the same in every direction, since its molecules or atoms point randomly all over the place. But freeze it to a solid (which cannot be done with helium), and they line up in specific directions to form a lattice. This is called symmetry breaking — the lattice has fewer axes of symmetry than the fluid (which has infinitely many). Like a solid, a superfluid also has a preferred direction. This is known as its "order parameter". When a fluid cools below the criti-

cal temperature for its transition to a superfluid, it assumes an order parameter pointing one particular way.

But in the experiment, parts of each helium hot spot cooled separately and took up a different order parameter from the others. Although these separate regions of superfluid grew until they met,



with different order parameters they were like mismatched pieces of a jigsaw puzzle, unable to coalesce into a single body. To resolve this and spin them all round to point the same way meant leaving traces of the spin: vortices.

These, it was argued, took up the missing energy.

A set of results just published in *Nature* announce the confirmation of this hypothesis. To show that the energy was going into vortices, Matti Krusius and Grigori Volovik at the Helsinki University of Technology, and Tom Kibble at Imperial College, London used a technique known as nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy to detect the formation of each vortex. The Grenoble and Lancaster groups measured the energy losses involved. What they found was intriguing. The amounts of energy lost agreed with a theory. It was not, however, a theory about helium, but one about the universe.

Dr. Kibble and a colleague, Wojciech Zurek at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, had previously proposed that as the space containing the early universe cooled, separate parts of it went through symmetry-breaking transitions, much like a fluid become a superfluid. They worked out how much energy this should use up. The Grenoble group applied the calculation to the drop of helium and found that it worked. A previous experiment had tried to replicate the transition using ⁴He — the commoner version of helium, which can also be a superfluid — but with less success. The theory of ³He, it turned out, has form analogous to the "standard model" of the universe: both predict similar kinds of symmetry-breaking at a certain temperature.

What stirs the cosmologists' interest is that the Kibble-Zurek the-

ory talks of the formation not of vortices, but of "strings" in the universe. These twisted skins of space, frozen into it after the phase transition, might have stored huge amounts of energy. If so, they would have a strong gravitational tug on other matter. This could explain why galaxies today are quite unevenly spread around the cosmos: they have been drawn in towards strings. However, there was no prospect of testing a theory about huge invisible structures billions of light years away. The helium experiment now suggests that at least the idea may be right. How many strings would have formed, and whether they would still exist now, are questions needing more work.

The parallel between space and a superfluid is intriguing in other ways. What the two domains share is topology: the description of their shapes and surfaces. Theories about the fundamental forces — which physicists hope to bring together in a single "theory of everything" — can also be cast in terms of topology. Knowing more about the topology of helium might, if the parallel goes far enough, illuminate how the forces of nature are inter-related.

The low-temperature experimenters are, they point out, a step ahead of high temperature cosmologists. They already have a theory of everything for superfluid helium. They are cautious, but hope that big-universe people will find their results interesting. However, nobody expects tiny stars, planets and people to form in the little cold vessel, unless, that is, he also expects inch-high thieves to step into his toy car and drive it away.

(Courtesy ECONOMIST)

Simple Life Form May Have Existed on Mars

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A simple, microscopic form of life that resembles bacteria may have existed on Mars some three billion years ago, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) announced earlier.

Evidence of life on the red planet was found in a meteorite from Mars that landed on Earth about 13,000 years ago, said NASA Administrator Daniel Goldin in a statement.

"The evidence is exciting, even compelling, but not conclusive," Goldin said.

"I want everyone to understand that we are not talking about 'little green men.' These are extremely small, single-cell structures that somewhat resemble bacteria on Earth," he said. "There is no evidence or suggestion that any higher life form ever existed on Mars."

In London, the BBC reported quoting from a leaked NASA report that the meteorite — which was discovered in Antarctica in 1984 — contains crude fossils from primitive micro-organisms.

Under a powerful microscope, NASA scientists saw shapes on the meteorite which looked like tiny bacteria that lived on Earth some 3.5 billion years ago, according to the BBC.

The meteorite from Mars is believed to have blasted away from the red planet's surface during a violent storm, and any primitive forms of Martian life could have hitched to Earth.

British scientists at the Natural History Museum in London have also studied fragments of the meteorite and found remnants of organic material possibly from underground water reserves.

Mars boasts a number of dried

river beds and it is thought that subterranean pools could provide a home for simple life forms.

A scientist at the Natural History Museum said the findings, if correct, were some of the most sensational in scientific history.

"It's entirely possible that very, very primitive organisms might have arisen," Monica Grady told the BBC.

"I'm not talking about ammonites or corals or anything like that but something incredibly primitive such as micro-fossils from highly primitive organisms. It's absolutely fascinating to find these," she added.

NASA is planning to launch two unmanned space probes to Mars later this year. It plans to send the Mars Global Surveyor and the Mars Pathfinder in November and December, respectively.

The decade-long missions are designed to answer questions about the role of water in Mars' early evolution and whether the planet could have supported life at the beginning of its existence.

In the summer of 1976, two U.S. Viking Probes landed on Mars, and the scientific community held its breath in hopes of discovering evidence of life on the planet, but were disappointed.

Although no evidence of organic life was found on the red planet, analysis of Mars' atmosphere and soil uncovered carbon, nitrogen, hydrogen, oxygen and phosphorus — essential elements for organic life on Earth.

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In the Name of the Most High

Call for Papers

Kurd Scholars Congress

With the succor of the Almighty and support of the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and with the aim of promoting and enhancing the Iranian learning, culture, language, literature, and art to crystallize and introduce the principles of thought, recognize the genuine pillars of belief, and combat cultural inroad and self-abnegation, the scholars and experts on culture and art will convene in the second half of Shahrivar (September) in Sanandaj which is the cradle of Iran's culture and literature the Kurd Scholars Congress in order to honor, glorify, and laud the efforts made by these academic and cultural dignitaries.

To this end, a number of scholars and thinkers of the fertile land of Sanandaj will be introduced at the congress. All professors, researchers, scholars, and thinkers are invited to forward their precious research reports and articles on the following subjects to the congress secretariat by at most August 20, 1996:

1. The biography and criticism of the works of the scholars
2. Impacts of the Quran, hadith (traditions), and Islamic sources on the works of the scholars
3. Islamic and Iranian culture and civilization in the works of the scholars
4. Islamic mysticism and sufism in Iran and its branches in Kurdistan
5. The Holy Prophet (S) and his Household as reflected in the works of the scholars
6. The scholars concern for preservation of the Islamic and cultural identity and human values
7. Eloquence, aestheticism, and perception of meaning in the works of the scholars
8. Survey of the poetry and prose of the scholars in Persian, Kurdish, and Arabic
9. Poetic forms and concepts and their features in Kurdish language
10. Activities of the scholars in social and political scenes
11. Comparative study, etymology, and study of the relationship of Iranian languages by considering common words and terms
12. Consideration of the awareness of the scholars of the Divine words and Quranic exegesis with a view to their extant works
13. Study of the developments and causes of the historical and literary transformations of Iranian languages, in particular Kurdish
14. Bibliography and introduction of the published or unpublished works of the scholars

NOTE: Each speaker would have 20 minutes to deliver his article and 5 minutes to recite poems.

NAMES OF KURDISH SCHOLARS:

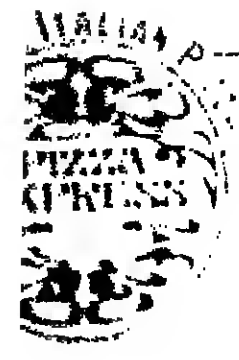
- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Mulla Abu Bakr Musannaf Choori | 8. Burhanuddeen Hamdi |
| 2. Sheikh Mohammad Marivani (Qane') | 9. Mirza Abdul Qader Pave'ee |
| 3. Abdul - Rahman Sharafkandi (Ha Zhar) | 10. Haj Seyed Mohammad Sheikh-ul-Islam |
| 4. Seyed Mohammad Amin Sheikh-ul-Islami (Heyman) | 11. Mullah Ahmad Tarjanizadeh |
| 5. Seyed Mohammad Taher Seyedzadeh Hashemi | 12. Savareh Ikhanizadeh |
| 6. Malek-ul-Kalam Majdi | 13. Ayatollah Sheikh Fazel Garousi Bijar |
| 7. Mah Sharaf Khanoom (Mastooreh Ardalan) | |

Organizing Committee of the Kurd Scholars Congress

ADDRESS:

**Secretariat of the Kurd Scholars Congress, Sanandaj
Governor's Office, Palestine Street, Sanandaj**

TEL: (0871) 35 625 and 36 753 FAX: 36 755



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IRAN NEWS

'The Blue-Veiled' at Sacramento Film Festival



Rakhshan Bani-etemad

IRAN NEWS ART DESK

The First Sacramento International Film Festival will be tagged from August 8 - 18.

According to an announcement by the Farabi Cinema Foundation, Rakhshan Bani-etemad's latest picture, "The Blue-Veiled", is scheduled to be screened at the Sacramento Festival which will be organized on a non-competitive basis.

In related news it was announced by the Farabi Cinema Foundation that Bani-etemad has been invited to attend the 49th Locarno International Film Festival.

Japan's Best-Loved Comedian Dies

TOKYO (AFP) - Kiyoshi Atsumi, the Japanese comedian who played a bumbling hawker perpetually suffering from unrequited love in the world's longest-running movie series, has died, his movie company said Wednesday.

Shochiku Co. Ltd. said the 68-year-old actor, who played the character Tora-San in no fewer than 48 films since 1969, died of lung cancer on Sunday.

News of Atsumi's death shocked Japan, with several televi-

Man Charged in 3.5 Million Dollar Art Fraud

NEW YORK (AFP) - Federal authorities have charged a man in a 3.5 million dollar art fraud scheme for falsely claiming to sell works by Matisse, Renoir, Lichtenstein, Warhol and Botero.

U.S. attorney Mary Jo White of the southern district of New York announced the charges Monday against Laurence Groeger.

According to White, Groeger offered potential buyers fakes of Henri Matisse's "Odalisque with Fan", Pierre August Renoir's "Chrysanthemum Vase," Roy Lichtenstein's "Girl with Hair Ribbon," Andy Warhol's "Perrier Pond Rose," and Fernando Botero's "The Lovers."

Groeger was released on a \$100,000-dollar personal bond, to be secured by real estate assets and the surrender of his passport. White said the investigation was continuing.

Groeger previously pled guilty to art fraud charges in New York and Los Angeles relating to the sale of forged art works of the artists Juan Miro, Marc Chagall, Pablo Picasso and Salvador Dali, the statement said. He is awaiting sentencing.

He was sentenced on July 31, 1996, to 16 months in prison and ordered to pay 122,000 dollars in restitution on the earlier charge of selling forged Chagall works. He has been ordered to start his prison sentence on September 4.

val as a member of the international jury.

Locarno International Film Festival will run from August 8 - 18.

"The Blue-Veiled" is a love story of a more or less forbidden kind. Rasul, an elderly widower and owner of a factory, is attracted by Nobar a young girl worker. Initially the old man's feelings appear as paternal concern for the welfare of the young girl who has to take care of her ailing mother and her brother. He even tries to persuade his factory foreman to marry Nobar. But the foreman, as it turns out, has planned to settle down with a middle-aged worker. Gradually Rasul realizes that he is deeply in love with Nobar and, unbeknown to his daughters, who are anxious to maintain total control over their father's life and wealth, he marries the young girl. The affair does not remain a secret for long, and its exposure brings about a dramatic change in Rasul's life.

"The Blue-Veiled" was awarded the Bronze Leopard prize at 48th Locarno Festival.

Fifth Soore International Photo Festival for Children and Young Adults

IRAN NEWS ART DESK

The Fifth Soore International Photo Festival for Children and Young Adults will be organized by the Iranian Photographers' Center and Khavaran Farhangsara in April 1997.

children, the future architects of the human society.

According to the Public Relations of the Iranian Photographers' Center, the festival will comprise three sections with images focusing on four themes as follows:

1. Child photographers. In this

ages on the theme of happiness.

3. Images in this section may focus on various aspects of the children's life, and on the special theme, 'Happiness in Children's World'.

For further information about the festival, interested people can contact the Iranian Photographers' Center, Sonayeh Avenue or send their letters to P.O.Box 15815-1677.



An Image from Second Soore Int'l Photo Festival

As in the past years the festival will pursue the objectives of improving the conditions of children and young adults. The festival will also attempt to direct the attention of the world community to the living conditions of children.

2. Young photographers. Young adults between 12 - 17 years may enter in this section in-

It is to be noted that 979 photographers from 23 countries had participated in the Fourth Festival.

Grand Velayat Maneuver Photo Exhibition

IRAN NEWS ART DESK

A photo exhibition of the Grand Velayat Maneuver will be organized by the Iranian Photographers' Center.

To honor the memory of the Sacred Defense, a collection of

photos taken during the Grand Velayat Maneuver will be on display at the center.

According to the Public Relations of the Iranian Photographers' Center, the exhibition, which is the 22nd show mounted by the Iranian Photographers' Center, will open on Thursday August 8 and will run through September 8.

Center, will open on Thursday August 8 and will run through September 8.

Visiting hours are 09 a.m. to 19 p.m. everyday except Fridays which are 15-20 p.m.

It is to be noted that simultane-

Urdu Translation of Holy Quran in Verse

IRAN NEWS ART DESK

The first Urdu translation of the Holy Quran in verse by the Indian poet Akram Rajishani is out for interested readers, a report from IRNA in New Delhi informed.

Indian President Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma said Thursday that the work deserved commendation.

The Holy Quran, the Almighty's final and most comprehensive set of revelation for the human race, has been translated into virtually all languages, at times by different translators in the same language who worked independently of each other.

Farsi Language Classes in Turkmenistan

IRAN NEWS ART DESK

Farsi language and literature classes in Turkmenistan have been warmly welcomed by the local students, an IRNA report from Ashkhabad informed.

According to an official in the Iranian Cultural Center in Ashkhabad, at present over 450 university and school students in the city are studying in these classes. The official added that during last six months, some 160 students have successfully passed elementary Farsi courses.

He also noted that 125 students are now busy studying Farsi literature at the University of Dolat Mohammad Azadi in the city.

The Iranian Cultural Center in the city offers books to the students of the Farsi language and literature.



The above image has been entered at Grand Velayat Maneuver Photo Exhibition by IRAN NEWS photographer Hossein Hatami

کتابخانه

IRAN
POLITICAL NEWS

Reflections on Oil and Oil Revenues

BY MOHAMMAD BAKER NOWBAKHT MP FROM RASHT

From 1289 (1910-11) when oil became the hub of Iran's economy, oil revenues left a tremendous impact on domestic political and economic decisions.

With the exception of the years 1910 to 1951 when Britain, under the cover of the Anglo Iranian Oil Company, pocketed the major part of Iran's oil revenues, in other periods — especially during the development plans of 1948 to 1979, the oil revenue played a significant role in the annual budgets. In the third and fourth development plans before the Revolution, oil revenues comprised 66 and 63 percent of the country's total budget. The increase in the gross domestic product (GDP) is always dependent on oil revenues. Income from oil increased fourfold in 1975 compared with 1973, raising the annual GDP by almost 12 percent.

Without a doubt, the reduction in oil revenues from 1,373 billion rials to 667 billion rials between the years 1984 to 1989 was the main cause of the increased budget deficit which soared from 627 billion rials to 2,111 billion rials. It also gave rise to increased liquidity, rising from 7,966 billion rials to 15,687 billion rials over the same years, causing high inflation.

In the First Plan, fluctuations in the GDP growth and inflation rate were caused by the oil revenues.

Surely, the \$9.3 billion slump in oil revenues over the years 1991 to 1994 brought about Iran's debts crisis. Global arrogance, realizing the impact of oil incomes on Iran's economy, slapped new oil embargoes on Iran in 1995.

Today, the Islamic Republic of Iran pursues the strategic policy of stabilizing the domestic economy by getting rid of oil income fluctuations. This policy is inspired by the statements of the Eminent Leadership (paragraph 3 of guidelines on the Second Development Plan). One of the qualitative objectives of this plan has been approved by the Fourth Majlis (Parliament) in the form of 34 strategies.

Perhaps in the long term, the foreign currency earned through non-oil exports might not be sufficient. Then the process of construction and increase in infrastructural capacities might not be feasible, particularly for the many projects left incomplete.

Instead of relying on oil revenues we should consider oil as a national asset belonging to the future generations as well. We should use alternative sources to generate income and reduce dependence on oil.

We should conduct an extensive survey to see which production, industrial, and/or agricultural could bring about development and serve as grounds for ample investments using the oil revenues.

The Second Plan puts emphasis on the agriculture sector due to Iran's potentials such as more than 51 million hectares of arable land and 120 billion cubic meters of water.

We should know that more than 30 million hectares of farmland are not used for agricultural purposes due to the inability to utilize more than 70 billion cubic meters of water caused by the insufficient number of dams. We must invest in water and soil sectors in our development plan.

For the revolutionary people of Iran, imports of strategic agricultural goods and foodstuff such as rice, wheat, etc., would be an issue that requires deliberation in view of the commercial agreements such as the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) now known as the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Instead of giving up oil drilling altogether, we should dispense with reliance on oil revenues and use the said revenues for investments in macro plans to build dams, power plants, refineries, etc.

NATO Discovers Massive Serb Arms Cache, IFOR

SARAJEVO (AFP) — NATO forces have discovered a massive arms cache belonging to the Bosnian Serb army which has also asked to declare another 211 sites where arms are stored. NATO officials said Tuesday.

Around 2,000 tons of mines, rockets, and ammunition were discovered in a boarded up building in eastern Bosnia Monday morning, a spokesman for the alliance-led Peace Implementation Force (IFOR) said.

Under strict rules in Bosnia's peace agreement all storage sites belonging to the former warring factions should have been declared to IFOR last March. IFOR has the right to destroy all unauthorized weaponry.

IFOR spokesman Major Mrett Boudreau said that Monday's find "does not appear to be an authorized site."

In an apparent act of contrition, around the same time Monday, the Bosnian Serb Army also asked for more than 20 arms dumps in the vicinity to be authorized by the peacekeepers.

This sudden revelation of additional sites presents IFOR with a difficult choice over whether to confiscate the weaponry. Such action would likely prompt a major stand-off with the Serbs.

Earlier on Monday, when Italian troops tried to take away some four truck loads of arms, a crowd of 4-500 civilians blocked their path. Trucking away 2,000 tons of ammunition would take days, NATO officers admitted.

"Over the course of the day we will inspect those (additional) sites and make a decision whether to confiscate the lot," Boudreau said.

The initial find was discovered by a team of Italian troops looking at possible polling sites for Bosnia's forthcoming elections, an Italian IFOR officer told AFP.

"They noticed this boarded up building and an old man sitting

outside guarding the place. When the soldiers asked him what was in the building the man said 'nothing, it's an old school'." IFOR spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Salvatore Iacono said.

On close inspection though the massive stockpile was discovered. "That's when things started to get a little difficult," the IFOR officer said.

The 30 Italian troops sent to collect the initial find were blocked just outside the Serb-held town of Sokolac, some 40 kilometers (25 miles) northeast of Sarajevo, Iacono said.

Boudreau said it was possible the sites were already declared but that inaccuracies with maps had led to the apparent chance find. Only 95 percent of "hundreds" of weapons storage sites declared last March had been inspected by IFOR, he added.

In explaining the apparent contradictions Boudreau denied that Monday's find and request to declare other sites was a clear case of the Serbs coming clean after they were caught red-handed.

"We would not say this was an attempt to hide these weapons from U.S. We are dealing with a large country of terrain that is rough and rugged. The administration of their (Serb) sites is hampered by communications and by going through four years of conflict," the spokesman said.

One patrol was left overnight outside the arms dump which had no military markings and only one, civilian keeping watch Iacono said.

"This was not a suitable site for the storage of ammunition, there were houses close by. With 1,200 cubic meters (yards) of ammunition this would be extremely dangerous," Iacono said.



European Oil Giants Threatened by U.S. Sanctions Law

BRUSSELS, BELGIUM (AFP) — Several European oil giants were yesterday among companies threatened by U.S. sanctions aimed at foreign companies that invest in petroleum projects in Iran and Libya.

One of the companies likely to be hardest hit by the new law was Italian oil giant AGIP, a subsidiary of the ENI Public Company which has large investments in Libya.

They include a six billion dollar project to build a gas pipeline running from the southern Mediterranean to Sicily.

Other European oil companies likely to be affected are France's ELF and TOTAL, Belgium's PERTOFINA, Spain's REPSOL, Germany's VEGA and Austria's OMV.

The new law promoted by Republican Senator Alfonse D'Amato is aimed at isolating the governments of Iran and Libya, which, according to Washington, fund and promote terrorism around the world. The law, im-

posed after European countries refused to join a 1995 U.S. economic embargo against Iran, targeted at non-U.S. firms that invest more than \$40 million annually in the Iranian and Libyan oil and gas sectors.

The legislation signed yesterday by U.S. President Bill Clinton drew outrage from European governments that threatened retaliation and said it was in violation of rules set by the World Trade Organization.

European Union officials said they plan to take up the matter in September and in the meantime would "approach the U.S. administration to have them explain what kind of sanctions are likely to be applied because the president has the possibility of choosing from a list."

The new law is similar to the Helms-Burton Law penalizing foreign companies investing in Cuba, over which the European Union has also prepared counter-measures.

Pakistani Media Flays U.S. Sanctions Against Iran, Libya

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — The United States decision to clamp sanctions on companies that do business with Iran and Libya could backfire on Washington and herald the "collapse of the unipolar world," Pakistani press reports warned yesterday.

A foreign office spokesman called the U.S. decision "unfortunate" Tuesday, saying "We have always advocated that there be a dialogue between Iran and the United States to resolve their differences."

There has been "no evidence" that the governments of Libya and Iran were directly or indirectly involved in acts of terrorism, but the United States has chosen to indict them "unilaterally" and to proceed with penalizing them, an influential daily Dawn said.

U.S. President Bill Clinton signed on Monday a new law to penalize foreign companies that invest in the energy sectors in Iran and Libya, saying the law would help cut the flow of funds the two countries "need to finance international terrorism."

The bill has wider implications which could prove "counter-productive and even backfire on

Washington," Dawn said.

"If this is simply an election tactic designed to win votes, one wonders whether the U.S. will ever learn some of the basic points of international relationship and creative diplomacy," it said.

Another independent daily The Nation said, "The Americans have acted so arbitrarily in pronouncing the judgment that even their closest allies in Europe have denounced it as illegal."

The paper warned that if the Americans "wish to go ahead alone and try to demonstrate their muscle power vis-a-vis small nations, as they have been doing in the past, they would be expediting the collapse of the unipolar world."

The paper said: "The time has come for small nations to challenge the legitimacy of the so-called new world order, and act in unison to resist high-handed and arbitrary dictates of the overlord designed to hold them to ransom." Pakistan's Foreign Office spokesman stressed that "relations with Iran will remain unaffected," and that it was not anticipated that any Pakistani firms would be affected by the sanctions.

Crisis Looms Between Netanyahu and Foreign Minister

JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy, furious over being excluded from key policy initiatives by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, is plotting revenge against his boss which could undermine Israeli diplomacy, a senior official said Tuesday.

"The government's foreign policy is being directed entirely from

the prime minister's office and Levy is determined to respond to this," the Senior Onno Spon of anonymity.

"Netanyahu has deliberately sidelined Levy but the foreign minister has no intention of taking it lying down, and Israeli diplomacy may unfortunately become victim to these personal and partisan rivalries," he said.

Levy and his aides have complained regularly since the right-wing government took office in early June that Netanyahu was bypassing the foreign ministry with a series of diplomatic initiatives run directly out of the prime minister's office.

The Malaise turned into fury after Netanyahu made his first official visit to Jordan on Monday without taking Levy or any other foreign ministry official along.

Levy associates said the minister was also angry because he was not informed of a recent secret visit to Israel by a Syrian envoy or of a series of diplomatic initiatives by Netanyahu adviser Dore Gold, including a visit last week to Washington to discuss efforts to resume Israeli-Syrian peace talks.

Officials said the Netanyahu-Levy rivalry has also affected attempts to resume negotiations with the Palestinians.

Levy met with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat last month and promised to set up a steering committee within a few days to conduct negotiations. Levy wanted to head the panel but Netanyahu has yet to approve the move and the situation remains stalemated.

The Israeli newspaper Maariv quoted a senior Foreign Ministry official Tuesday as saying some members of Levy's entourage are



RAM CHECKPOINT, WEST BANK: An Israeli border guard officer stands by at Ram Checkpoint near the West Bank town of Ramallah, August 5, while a group of Palestinian women demonstrate to demand the release of their relatives from Israeli jails. Several thousand Palestinian political prisoners are held in Israeli jails.

(AFP Photo)

Setareh.

Deserts are dry because they get very little rain. Many deserts are separated from the sea by mountains. Winds that blow onto the land from the sea carry a lot of moisture. When they start blowing up mountain slopes, these winds become cooler. Cooler winds cannot hold as much moisture as warmer ones. So the cooled-off winds drop their moisture in the form of rain or snow before reaching the mountaintops. By the time the winds reach the other side of the mountains, almost no moisture is left in them. The land on the other side of the mountains gets very little rain. It becomes a desert.

Jumbles: OAR SWIM BEEF DIRT
Answer: Fish like to sleep here — IN WATER BEDS

IRAN NEWS CHILDREN'S DESK

براد، ان سہریم

طعم شیرین دوستی

من رحمہ: سب مرشد



The donkey and his friends have grown old. Their owners cast them out of the house. But they promise to keep up their friendship and start a new life....

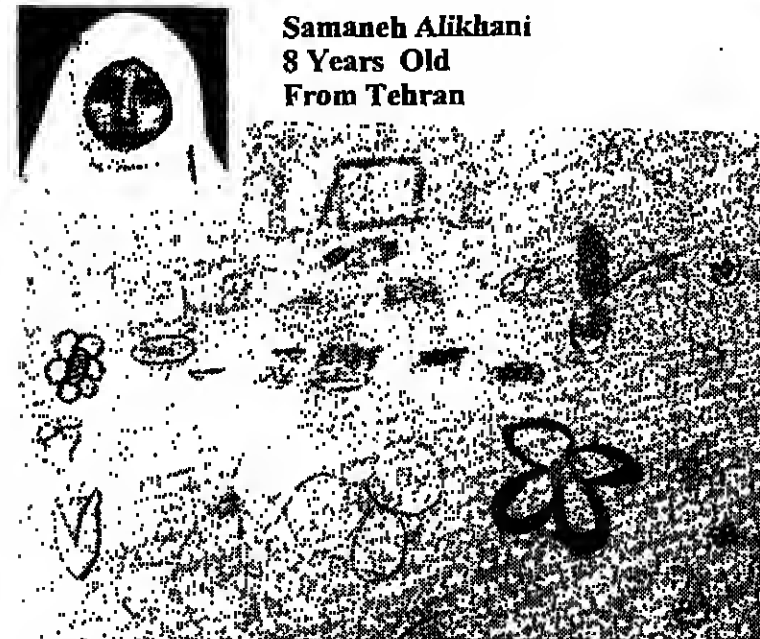
The donkey and his friends have grown old. Their owners cast them out of the house. But they promise to keep up their friendship and start a new life....

By HENRI ARNOLD and MIKE ARGIRION

Answer here : IN

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Samaneh Alikhani
8 Years Old
From Tehran



Three small rabbits were playing on the morning of an autumn day when suddenly they heard a splash. Full of horror, they hid amidst the grasses....



هيو لایى به نام «قَلْب»

یوسفد و نقاش: بانک کبانو جون
عمرجم: مرصده ظههورنه، نژاد

مترجم: عزیز علی خان

cost How much did the box of chocolates cost?
What was the price of the box of chocolates?

PRINCESS BRIAR ROSE



Some time later the prince decided to give a series of three

By this time the prince was beginning to wonder who had been preparing his meals. He questioned the cook, and putting two and two together, came to the conclusioo that the kitchen maid must be the beautiful girl at the ball. They were sooo married, and of course they lived happily ever after.

مكة في الأصل